MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 FEBRUARY 1982

Syria

Damascus Explosion -- Monte Carlo radio reported an explosion near the building which houses the Syrian Information Ministry and the ruling party's organ, AL-BA'TH. According to the radio, the driver of a pickup truck detonated its load of 200 kg of dynamite when guards prevented the vehicle's entry into the building's garage. Describing the driver as "an agent of Israel and the CIA from the Muslim Brotherhood gang," SANA claimed that he was killed by guards whiling attempting to escape. SANA added that the explosion damaged some nearby cars and shattered glass in the building, thereby slightly injuring a number of employees.

Terming the incident an escalation of national opposition to the regime's institutions, Baghdad Voice of Arab Syria said the explosion badly damaged the AL-BA'TH and nearby buildings and claimed that news agencies reported 76 persons killed and over 135 wounded in the blast.

Press Comment -- Damascus radio reported comments by three newspapers: AL-BA'TH wrote that Washington has bet on the Muslim Brotherhood to wreck Syria's steadfastness. In an apparent reference to the explosion, the paper concluded that "butting against walls" with dynamite will not change Syria's valiant course. ATH-THAWRAH maintained that Israel has completed military preparations for attacking Lebanon and Syria and asked UNIFIL to leave southern Lebanon. Both papers opined that the United States and Israel are reacting to the defeat Syria inflicted on them at the UN General Assembly. TISHRIN contended that the war being prepared by the United States and Israel will backfire because Syria enjoys the support of the Arab masses and worldwide friends and allies led by the Soviet Union.

PLO

VOP Claims -- The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio claimed that Israel asked the Senegalese UNIFIL contingent in southern Lebanon to abandon its positions in the central sector. According to the radio, Israel has called up reserve troops, strengthened its forces on the Lebanese border and evacuated settlements near the Syrian border.

Operations Chief Interview -- The London weekly AL-HAWADITH published an interview with Brig Gen Sa'd Sayil, PLO director of central operations and Executive Committee member. Sayil said the Palestinian revolution's forces do not claim to be able to defeat the Israeli Army now, but when the PLO attains a military balance with Israel, the question of finally settling the situation with the Israeli enemy will arise. Asked whether the Soviet Union is supplying the PLO with weapons such as FROG and surface-to-air missiles, Sayil said that his organization has succeeded in obtaining sophisticated weapons from friends. Earlier in the interview he had stated that these weapons are notable for their accuracy and have been rapidly absorbed by PLO forces. Sayil said the purpose of a PLO military delegation's recent tour of Eastern Europe was to develop military relations. He added that arming and training were discussed, and that the delegation obtained good results. Asked whether the PLO would use its new long-range artillery and other improved weapons against the northern Israeli settlements in case of an Israeli attack, Sayil replied that the PLO has created disaffection among the settlers in the north by proving that their government and army are unable to protect them. He added that while appreciating humane considerations, "we will use the arms we have should we be forced to." Asked whether the PLO's 28-30 January fedayeen operation in the Jordan Valley should be regarded as a prelude to other operations on new fronts, including the Golan, Sayil said the PLO will use all the resources, means and fronts it can. He reiterated that the cease-fire negotiated by U.S. envoy Philip Habib concerns only the Lebanese front.

Israel

Arms Deal Comment -- Citing Israeli and U.S. sources, HA'ARETZ asserted that the United States intends to pursue the Hawk missile deal with Jordan. In an interview carried by Jeruslaem radio, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir declared that the Middle East countries need peace, not new arms, and added that new weapons will not influence Jordan in a positive direction. Citing "authoritative sources", Jerusalem radio reported that ambassador to the United States Moshe Arens told U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig in Washington that the possibility of maintaining Israel's qualitative advantage, which the United States has pledged to do, is diminishing. When the most sophisticated weapons are supplied to Arab countries, what can be supplied to Israel to maintain the edge? Arens reportedly asked.

Egypt

During a meeting with a group of visiting Israeli journalists, MENA reported, Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said the completion of the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai will eliminate existing sensitivity and enhance normalization. 'Ali reiterated that full Palestinian autonomy is necessary to obtain peace, "preparatory to self-determination." He contended that the autonomy talks could be brought out of deadlock by taking into consideration the interests of both sides and by bringing the Palestinians and Jordanians into the peace process. In this connection he again urged Israel to implement confidence-building measures to encourage Palestinian participation in the negotiations and to halt settlement activity or any measures "against" Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. After the Palestinian issue is resolved, the Middle East region would dedicate itself to development and to confronting foreign dangers, 'Ali maintained.

PDRY

Aden radio reported that the paper SAWT AL-'UMMAL demanded imposition of the severest penalties on the group currently being tried for terrorism and sabotage. According to another radio report, Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad has issued a decree amending the penal code so that acts specified in Articles 169, 170 and 171 now carry a minimum penalty of 5 years and a maximum penalty of execution if certain aggravating conditions are present.

Iran

Khomeyni Message -- In a message to Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi delivered by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati during his current visit to Libya, broadcast by Tripoli radio, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni said it is regrettable that some Arab governments spread fabrications in order to disturb Iran instead of seeking to help the strongest state in the region and the one most committed to Islam. Khomeyni also thanked Al-Qadhdhafi for condemning the United States and Israel and for his loyalty to states that adhere to Islamic Law.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

An Iranian communique broadcast by Tehran radio said that on 15 February Iranian aircraft attacked the Al-Bakr jetty in Iraq and returned safely to base after inflicting serious damage. The communique claimed that Iranian forces killed or wounded 100 Iraqis and lost 5 of their own men. IRNA asserted that the 17 February Iraqi cluster bomb attack on residential areas of Eslamabad-e Gharb destroyed a residential area with a 1-km radius. The agency placed the toll at 23 dead and 46 wounded, claiming that most of the dead were babies.

An Iraqi communique published by INA said that Iraqi planes and helicopters attacked enemy positions in the central and southern sectors, setting targets on fire before returning safely to base. The communique claimed that 102 Iranians were killed and admitted the loss of 20 Iraqis.

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PLO OPERATIONS CHIEF PREDICTS ISRAELI ATTACK

PM181229 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 19 Feb 82 pp 23

[Interview granted by Brig Gen Sa'd Sayil, director of PLO central operations and member of the PLO Executive Committee, to Zaki Shihab in Beirut -- date not given]

[Text] AL-HAWADITH met with Brig Gen Sa'd Sayil, director of PLO central operations and member of the PLO Executive Committee, at his new [Beirut] headquarters in the Al-Fakihani quarter, a few steps from a previous headquarters that Israeli aircraft had reduced to rubble. We asked him about the possibility of an Israeli invasion of Lebanon, new Soviet arms for the Palestinian resistance, the effect of the recent fedayeen operation across Jordan, the status of the cease-fire in the south and the PLO's stand on expanding UNIFIL operations in the south.

He said frankly: "We are capable of inflicting losses on the Israeli Army and obstructing its plans and military operations."

To a later question he said the resistance has no desire whatsoever for resettlement [of Palestinians in Lebanon] or to obtain privileges in Lebanon. "We are guests on this land," he said. Lebanon's strength in the final analysis is an advantage for the Palestinian cause, and a strong Lebanon would secure the preservation of the agreements concluded with the resistance, which is ready to provide all the necessary facilities for the preservation of Lebanon which the Lebanese agree upon. He affirmed that Israel has divided the Arab countries into three strategic areas with the aim of achieving further expansion.

AL-HAWADITH: All expectations indicate that Israel is likely to launch a large-scale attack on southern Lebanon, where the resistance has its main military presence. Has the military command taken this possibility into consideration and, could it alone resist the likely aggression in the light of the imbalance between itself and Israel?

Sa'd Sayil: From the time the Palestinian revolution fired its first bullet right up to this date it has not concerned itself with the question of balance. Had it concerned itself with this, the revolution would not have been launched. Our calculations as a revolution are long-term strategic calculations. The Palestinian revolution is the Arab nation's principal motivator. When it attains this capability [of balance with Israel] the question of finally settling the situation with the Israeli enemy will then arise. In our continued fighting with the enemy, we, as a resistance, have proved that we have the capability and the ability to inflict further losses on its ranks. Our battles with it, whether in Al-Karamah [Jordan] in 1968, in October 1973 and in the 2-week war in August 1981 are the best evidence of this.

There is no doubt that during this long period of fighting the Palestinian revolution's forces have been constantly gaining combat experience, to the extent that they have acquired great knowledge of enemy methods and of how to confront them.

Despite all this wealth of military experience and growth, we do not claim to be capable of defeating the Israeli Army. But with all modesty I can say that we can inflict losses on the Israeli Army and at the same time impede its plans and military operations. This has been established and needs no further proof. There is no comparison between the joint Lebanese and Palestinian forces and the Israeli forces. But the will to fight is our fighter's advantage over the Zionist soldier, despite the latter's great advantage in terms of armament. This is in addition to the firmness, determination and willingness to die -- which, in the final analysis, is for the defense of Lebanese land.

As for the expectations you referred to, we always take this into account. In the meantime the Zionist enemy leaders are looking for any justification for such an attack. They say, for example, that the PLO has violated the cease-fire in the south. The enemy repeats this every time our revolutionaries carry out any military operation inside the occupied territories. This is despite the fact that everybody knows and is aware that the cease-fire agreement we signed concerns only southern Lebanon and does not apply to the occupied territories. Naturally, such threats do not scare us. Rather, we simply and modestly say that our forces are ready and prepared to deal with any Israeli aggression. There has been an improvement in our military position since the "2-week war." The combat efficiency of our fighters has been enhanced through continued exercise and as a result of our obtaining some sophisticated weapons which are notable for their accuracy and which have been rapidly absorbed [by our forces]. Also we must not forget that we have never felt that we are fighting alone. We are proud to say that the son of southern Lebanon has always stood with the Palestinian fighter so that together they resist the common enemy, despite the losses in lives and property the enemy inflicts on the ranks of the Lebanese. I consider this cohesion between our two peoples to be the best example of national action in our Arab nation.

I would once again assert that the Israeli enemy is preparing to launch its expected aggression on southern Lebanon. It is awaiting the suitable international conditions for carrying out this aggression, which will be different from previous aggression. This is a known fact since no battle can be a carbon copy of a previous battle.

We have made all possible preparations on our side. One of the pretexts the enemy will use is the growth of the military strength of the Palestinian revolution. The enemy wants to monopolize everything that may be called strength, including conventional strength represented by the buildup and growth of forces or the kind of strength represented by the attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor. We must understand that the aim of the Israeli aggression is not only to strike at the Palestinian military forces and the PLO, as it claims. We all must understand that the principal objective is to occupy southern Lebanon in order to annex more land and water resources. This is in addition to a political objective which is to force Lebanon to conclude a peace treaty similar to the Camp David agreement. Zionist thinking perceives the Middle East region as divided into three strategic areas.

The first area is the Nile Valley, where the enemy has created a comfortable situation for itself via the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

The second area is what is known as the Fertile Crescent and which includes Jordan, Syria, Iraq and Lebanon. The enemy is trying to penetrate this area, believing that its weakest link is Lebanon.

The third targeted strategic area is the Arabian Peninsula. In this area we have begun to hear about Israeli air sorties over Saudi Arabia.

These steps are in fact designed to look for weak points in these areas. This is the Zionist thinking based on continuous expansion which, in the Zionist lexicon, means security. Therefore all the epithets previously attributed to Lebanon, such as saying that Lebanon's strength lies in its weakness, have begun to disappear, and the conclusion reached is that international relations alone do not protect nations.

AL-HAWADITH: Recently you spoke about concluding a military agreement with the Soviet Union. What are the implications of this agreement? Does it provide for your being supplied with new types of sophisticated weapons such as FROG's and SAM's, for example?

Sa'd Sayil: After every battle we fight with the Israeli enemy we make a detailed and comprehensive study of the situation and absorb all the lessons from it in an attempt to pinpoint the weaknesses and strengthen them. The question of obtaining arms would be one such lesson.

The development and improvement of the weapons we possess is carried out in two directions: through research and development within the Palestinian revolution, a field in which we have exerted great efforts, and through obtaining sophisticated weapons from friends, which we have actually succeeded in doing. As a result, we hope that in future battles the performance of the Palestinian military forces will be different and much better than in the past.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you mean that you have obtained these missiles?

Sa'd Sayil: My words are clear.

AL-HAWADITH: What were the objectives of the tour you made of the socialist countries at the head of a military delegation which included Brother Abu Jihad, Khalil al-Wazir, and what was the outcome of the trip, particularly following the elevation of the PLO's diplomatic representation with the Soviet Union?

Sa'd Sayil: The aim of the trip by a delegation of the Higher Military Council of the Palestinian revolution was in fact to discuss and develop military relations. The talks included questions of arming and training. I believe the results of the trip were good in all the countries visited, in Hungary or East Germany and, more recently, in Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union.

AL-HAWADITH: Can PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's trip also be regarded as part of the Palestinian efforts to obtain similar recognition from the other socialist countries?

Sa'd Sayil: Yes. The trip followed previous talks with these friendly states to raise the PLO's diplomatic status. During Abu 'Ammar's recent visit to Hungary the PLO's diplomatic representation there was raised.

AL-HAWADITH: Before the declaration of the cease-fire between the PLO and Israel in the south there emerged a Palestinian military capability that caused panic in the Israeli settlements close to the Lebanese/Palestinian border. Now the resistance has long-range artillery and better armor. In the event of an Israeli attack on the south can we expect these weapons to be used against the settlements, as happened last August?

Sa'd Sayil: Frankly, we as a revolution appreciate our responsibilities. In the PLO we have a much greater sense of responsibility than the enemy. In the August 1981 war the Israeli forces proved to the world that their aim was civilian targets. This was apparent in the bombing of Al-Fakihani quarter of Beirut and of other civilian targets in the south. On the other hand, during those 2 weeks, the Palestinian revolution was very careful about selecting its targets. I believe the Israeli enemy realized that the revolution could have struck haphazardly, but we were concerned about the humanitarian aspects. This, of course, stems from our military tradition, of which we are proud and which we will continue to maintain. Despite the fact that every Israeli is a combatant, we have tried as much as possible to distinguish between soldier and civilian. We have in fact tried to select only military targets, despite the difference in accuracy between our weapons and the enemy's weapons. If we look at the losses the Zionist enemy has suffered we find that we as a revolution have created a psychological problem in its ranks for the first time. This is in addition to the feeling of disaffection -- which all the world observed -- among the settlers in the northern part of the Zionist entity. They became disaffected with their political and military commands. It has been proved to these settlers that their leadership is unable to fulfill its promise to protect them and silence the Palestinian arms.

Therefore we say -- while fully aware of our responsibility and appreciating humane considerations -- we will use the arms we have in our hands should we be forced to use them. In fact, our fighter is used to fighting with a strong will and without sophisticated machine to back him. This is contrary to what the Israeli soldier has been used to, the Israeli whose army relies excessively on the use of its weapons and military machine.

AL-HAWADITH: The recent fedayeen operation near At-Tayasir village in the Jordan Valley was regarded by Israel as a violation of the cease-fire. What is your opinion, and is this operation to be regarded as the prelude to other operations on new fronts, the Golan for example?

Sa'd Sayil: I said in my answer to a previous question that the cease-fire with the enemy concerns only the Lebanese front, a fact which everybody knows and which we are anxious to uphold. The Israeli command regarded the operation in question as a violation of the cease-fire, but the inhabitants of the northern settlements did not regard it so because of the psychological condition created by the previous Palestinian response [to an Israeli attack].

In answer to the second part of your question I would say that our struggle with the enemy is continuing and will not be restricted to one single front; we will use all the resources, means and fronts we can.

AL-HAWADITH: As Western diplomatic sources in Beirut have conveyed on several occasions, Israeli terms for the settlement of the situation in the south are that Israel is prepared to withdraw from Sa'd Haddad's border strip in return for agreement to allow the UNIFIL forces to be deployed in the area from its border with Lebanon to a point near Sidon and as far as the border area in western Al-Biqa'. What is your attitude toward this?

Sa'd Sayil: Our stand is that we did not discuss the deployment of the UNIFIL forces with anybody because this is a matter that concerns Lebanon. We are for detente and we support whatever the Lebanese agree upon. Moreover, we are always ready to provide all possible facilities. Lebanon's strength is in the final analysis an advantage for the Palestine problem. We have no ambitions, neither for settlement [of Palestinians in Lebanon] nor for privileges. Such privileges should be only for the sons of the Lebanese people. We are guests in this land. The Palestinian revolution said that it is the motivator of this nation. Lebanon in this context is part of this nation. As a revolution our relations with Lebanon are governed by agreements. The presence of a strong Lebanon would secure the preservation of these agreements. In this regard we as a revolution have made concessions, including our adherence to the cease-fire as well as the suspension long ago of operations launched from Lebanese territory.

PALESTINIAN CP OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON NEW PARTY

JN182056 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1810 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Radio correspondent interview with 'Arabi 'Awwad, Politbureau member of the newly-formed Palestinian Communist Party -- date, place not given; live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] First, we would like Comrade 'Arabi to tell us about the formation of the Palestinian Communist Party [PCP[.

[Answer] The formation of the PCP is a significant event in our Palestinian people's struggle. However, it must be stressed that this party is not completely new because Palestinian communists have been present in the Palestinian struggle for so many years. They contributed effectively to the struggle against British colonialism and Zionism in order to bring about Palestinian independence and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Even after the plot against our Palestinian people, the Palestinian communists continued to struggle against this plot and against the designs of imperialism, Zionism and reaction which intended to erase the Palestinian people's national identity and cause.

After the occupation, the Palestinian communists also participated in the struggle against the occupation and its numerous plans of Judaization, resettlment and attempts to efface the Palestinian culture. It has become necessary now that the Palestinian communists gather within one framework, namely the PCP. This step has become necessary in light of the developments of our national cause and the world-wide recognition it is gaining. It has become obvious that the Palestinian cause is the core of the region's conflict and that any attempt to obtain a just peace in the region requires the recognition of the Palestinian people's national rights, especially their right to establish their own independent state and the repatriation of the refugees to their own land.

Hence, the PCP formation became necessary as a means to further support those achievements and accelerate the establishment of the independent Palestinian state. The PCP is a tributary of the Palestinian struggle and it will struggle with the various factions of the resistance and the Palestinian national movements to bring about the victory of our people's just cause.

[Question] Does what you have said mean that you concur with the PLO on the point of establishing an independent Palestinian state?

[Answer] The PCP formation manifesto which was published in its central paper AL-WATAN stressed that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian people. It also underlined the PCP's desire to be represented in the PLO's different bodies and leading organs so it may struggle alongside the various national parties under the PLO's umbrella. The manifesto also necessitated the formation of a wide Palestinian nationalist front because the current stage of our people's struggle, namely the stage of national liberation, demands the formation of such a wide front. Although the PCP is the party of the working class, toilers and poor peasants in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and in the Diaspora, and although its future objectives is to build up socialism, it still underlines the importance of focusing all efforts on the establishment of the Palestinian homeland and not giving any priority to any other objective, whether social or ideological.

[Question] Are the means of struggle to establish the independent Palestinian state restricted only to the political field, particularly since it is said that the PCP formation manifesto did not hint at the Palestinian armed struggle activities?

[Answer] It has become clear and is widely recognized that the Palestinian people have the right to use all means of struggle to bring about their objectives, especially the establishment of their own independent state. This includes the various forms of struggle. The UN resolutions also recognize this right.

As was stated in the manifesto, the PCP branches are authorized to adopt the appropriate forms of struggle that help to bring about our people's national objective.

[Question] Particularly if these branches are in the West Bank and Gaza Strip?

[Answer] I say all appropriate forms of struggle that help to bring about the Palestinian people's national objective.

[Question] Comrade 'Arabi. If all goes well, will the PCP join the PLO umbrella or, specifically, try to join the PLO Executive Committee?

[Answer] This was mentioned in the formation manifesto. It stressed that the PLO is the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative and that it is the framework which joins all the Palestinian nationalist factions and powers. The manifesto, hence, underlined the importance of the PCP's representation in the various bodies and leading organs of the PLO, including the Executive Committee. Such a step would certainly bolster the Palestinian national unity and democracy.

SPAIN WARNS PLO OFFICIAL OF ISRAELI PLOT

LD161140 Kuwait KUNA in English 1031 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] Madrid, 16 Feb (KUNA) -- Arab diplomatic sources here said that the Spanish Government has warned the director of the PLO office in Madrid, Munzar Dajani, of an Israeli plan to attack the organisation's offices in the Middle East and Europe.

The sources, who did not want to be identified, said the warning was conveyed to Dajani by the Spanish foreign minister, Jose Pedro Perez, at instructions from the prime minister, Calvo-Sotelo.

The plan, which aims at assassination of Palestinian leaders in both areas, is reportedly scheduled to be carried out before April 25, the dateline of the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai peninsula in accordance with the Camp David accords.

The sources told KUNA that the Spanish Government had reinforced security measures at the PLO office in Madrid and permitted the office staff to carry arms to defend themselves.

The foreign minister called Dajani to his office three days ago to communicate to him this information and offered all possible backing to protect the office officials.

The sources, meanwhile, said French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson had communicated similar information to the head of the PLO Political Department, Faruq Qaddumi, when he passed through Paris from Tunis a few days ago.

CUBAN AMBASSADOR CONVEYS MESSAGE TO 'ARAFAT

NC171340 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1245 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] -- received the Cuban ambassador to Lebanon at noon today.

Our correspondent has learned that the Cuban ambassador conveyed to Brother Abu 'Ammar an oral message including the appeal made by Comrade Castro to all nonaligned states regarding the Israeli military concentrations and the expected attacks against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. The message also included the instructions Castro has given to the Cuban UN delegate to coordinate fully with the PLO's UN delegate in this respect.

ARAB LEAGUE AIDE ASSAILS FRENCH MIDEAST POLICY

PM111141 Paris LE MONDE in French 3 Feb 82 p 4

[E.R. reports: "Mitterrand's Visit to Israel Is Inopportune"]

[Text] It is extremely rare for a diplomat posted to Paris to publicly criticize France's policy. Mr Mohamed Yazid, former Algerian ambassador and now director of the Arab League's Paris bureau, is doing just that for at least two reasons: "Since I am not accredited to the French head of state, I am free to speak without risking a diplomatic incident" and also, "as a progressive militant who welcomes the socialist victory, I have the right to be frank with the present majority."

Speaking at the end of a lunch given in his honor by the Eurafrican Press Association 1 February, Mr Yazid added: "It is my duty to tell you here what the Arab governments are secretly thinking." Answering journalists' questions, some on the Arab League's behalf and some "on a personal basis," but always as a spokesman for the "Arab consensus," he discussed the following subjects in particular:

-- "The Attali affair" has been settled at diplomatic level but continues to "pose a political problem," Mr Yazid maintained. The "wounding remarks" made by the president's special adviser with regard to Saudi Arabia were "viewed as an attack by the whole Arab world," (note 1) (speaking on Europe on 17 January, Mr Attali had recalled that in some countries they "cut off a thief's hand" -- a statement which had prompted a protest from the Saudi Embassy) especially since Mr Jacques Attali used words identical to those generally used by Begin to "terrorize" the Arab world's European partners. "Worse still," Mr Attali makes no secret of his membership in organizations which proclaim "not only their friendship for but also their solidarity with" the State of Israel. Mr Yazid did not use the word "lobby" but he expressed "the fear of seeing the French state cracking, like the American administration, under pressure from groups with conflicting interests. (note 2) (The Elysee refused to comment on Mr Yazid's remarks.)

-- "Mr Francois Mitterrand's forthcoming visit to Israel is inopportune.... The Arab League had officially asked the head of state to postpone his visit until such time as the conditions for a peaceful settlement had been established, but the request was in vain." Mr Yazid added that "this visit will encourage Mr Begin to pursue his expansionist policy, whatever Mr Mitterrand says when in Israel."

-- The annexation of the Golan Heights: Mr Yazid thinks it is derisory that France should have refused to vote for sanctions against Israel in the Security Council, pointing out that the annexation "was not a threat to world peace." "I am convinced," he stated, "that if Israel was to drop a nuclear bomb on some Arab capital tomorrow there would be some European official who would maintain that that action is not a threat to world peace."

-- "All the Arab countries disapprove of France's participation in the multilateral force in Sinai.... They think that the European countries which supply contingents to that force are acting as America's agents in the implementation of the Camp David agreements."

-- Egypt will be reintegrated into the Arab League once it has broken with the Camp David policy, that of the "objective alliance with the United States and Israel directed against the Palestinians and, more generally, against the Arabs." Mr Yazid refrained from specifying whether Egypt would be asked to repudiate its peace treaty with Israel. "In any case," he explained, "the decision rests with the Arab heads of state."

BAHRAIN

MINISTER DENIES REPORTS ON SABOTAGE PLOT

GF142005 Ad-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 13 Feb 82 pp 1, 6

[Falim as-Saghir dispatch from Manama]

[Excerpt] Security and stability cannot prevail in the Gulf unless the region's inhabitants feel they are one family. This is what Bahraini Information Minister Tariq al-Mu'ayyad said in a statement to AL-YAWM. He denied all reports about the "recent Iranian sabotage plot" that differed from Bahrain's official version, saying that these reports are intended to create doubts. He said there is no truth to reports that foreign interrogators are questioning the members of the sabotage network.

The Bahraini information minister also denied reports of differences between Bahrain and Qatar regarding the [Hawar] Islands between the two countries.

AMIR APPOINTS NEW EDUCATION, HEALTH MINISTERS

GF141144 Manama Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 14 Feb 82

[Text] Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah issued an amiri decree today appointing Dr 'Ali Muhammad Fakhru education minister and Jawad Salim al-'Urayyid health minister. Yusuf Ahmad ash-Shirawi, development and industry minister, has been appointed acting minister of state for Cabinet affairs.

KUWAIT

FOREIGN MINISTER URGES ARAB PRESSUPE ON ISRAEL

LD180934 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0710 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Kuwait, 18 Feb (KUNA) -- Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister, foreign minister and minister of information, has called for an Arab move on all levels and particularly with the great powers "to put pressure on Israel to refrain from an anticipated aggression against southern Lebanon." He said the threat of an Israeli incursion into southern Lebanon has existed for some time. In a statement published today by the Kuwaiti AL-ANBA', he added: Israel "has been planning such an action for some time and current Arab and international conditions are ripe for its adventures." Shaykh as-Sabah went on to say that Lebanon realizes this fact and "therefore it submitted the question of the south to the Fes summit which decided to set up an Arab committee to formulate a comprehensive Arab strategy for the protection of southern Lebanon."

The senior Kuwaiti official confirmed that Kuwait is contacting "the sisterly states and the influential great powers which can put pressure on Israel to refrain from aggression." This, he said, naturally must be accompanied by "an Arab move on all levels."

IRAN OFFICIALLY REQUESTS HELP ON POW VISITS

LD180846 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0744 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 18 Feb (KUNA) -- The Kuwaiti daily AL-ANBA' said today that Kuwait has received an official request from Iran that Kuwait be the official venue for the meeting of Iraqi and Iranian prisoners of war with their relatives. The paper quoted sources which it described as informed as saying that the Iranian request had in fact been handed to Kuwait, which began to study it "while awaiting the details which [word indistinct] the International Red Cross connected with procedural matters before declaring acceptance of the request."

KUWAITI-QATARI COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER TALKS

LD171126 Kuwait KUNA in English 1012 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Kuwait, 17 Feb (KUNA) -- Kuwait and Qatar Wednesday stressed the urgency of fostering Arab solidarity as the only positive channel that will enable the Arab nation to confront the challenges and dangers threatening it.

The leaders of Kuwait and Qatar expressed high hopes in the early re-convening of the 12th Arab summit in a cordial and friendly atmosphere to draw up a unified Arab strategy capable of achieving the aspired-for Arab objectives in all fields of endeavour, a joint communique released here today said.

The communique was issued at the end of a three-day state visit which the amir of Qatar, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, paid to Kuwait.

The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the resolution the United Nations General Assembly passed recently on the Arab Golan Heights and voiced hopes that the friendly nations that supported the resolution, (?implement) is on its relations with the Zionist entity and deeply denounced the nations that opposed the resolution.

The two sides discussed the Arab situation especially the developments of the Palestinian cause and affirmed anew that a just and comprehensive peace in the region cannot be attained without the withdrawal of the Zionist enemy from all the occupied Arab territories and restoration of all Palestinian rights and the establishment of their independent state on their soil under the leadership of the PLO and with Jerusalem as its capital.

The joint communique said the viewpoints of the two leaders were identical on all issues of mutual concern. They expressed profound belief that international security and stability are bent [as received] on the behavior of the international community in accordance with the principles and objectives of the United Nations Charter which aim at prevailing peace and justice among all nations of the world.

The two sides expressed full satisfaction with the progress of constructive bilateral relations in all political, economic, cultural and information fields and affirmed their determination to pursue expansion of horizons of cooperation to achieve the mutual objectives and interests.

In this connection Kuwait and Qatar hailed the steps taken in implementing the economic, educational and information cooperation agreement concluded by them and equally praised the steps taken by the Gulf Cooperation Council and its institutions and hinted at the effective role the GCC can play in fostering common Gulf action.

The two sides emphasised the importance of continued mutual coordination at all levels among the states of the region to promote their capabilities to confront the crucial circumstances surrounding them and to preserve the security and stability of their people away from any foreign intervention.

The Qatari amir praised the accomplishments of Kuwait under the leadership of his highness the amir and expressed deep appreciation for the warm reception accorded him and the generous and grand reception given him at all levels which reflected the generosity of the kind Kuwaiti people.

Shaykh Khalifah extended an open invitation to His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad to visit Qatar which Shaykh Jabir accepted with thanks.

The Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, who left here today, made a three-date state visit to Kuwait during the period February 15-17 at the invitation of Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah.

OMAN

MINISTER EXAMINES WAYS TO COUNTER SOVIET THREAT

EA182334 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1619 GMT 17 Feb 82

[17 February Muscat press conference held by Omani Minister of Information and Youth Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz ar-Rawwas for journalists accompanying Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak -- recorded]

[Excerpt] [Question] Your Excellency the Minister: Would you be so kind as to tell us about the situation between the Sultanate of Oman and southern Yemen? Your Excellency has referred to the Soviet danger. How do you see the Soviet danger to the Arab region in general and to the Sultanate of Oman in particular?

[Answer] In fact, when we here in Oman speak of the Soviet danger, we are not compelled to demur because we have lived with this danger and we are still experiencing this danger. We see it in front us us. The USSR is endeavoring not only to disrupt the stability of Oman, to impede its developmental march and to harm the stability of the Gulf region in particular, but also to fragment the Arab ranks in general. In front of us are living examples. It would take a long time for us to (?prove) them. You, above all, know this.

We here in Oman consider that southern Yemen's role in this danger is the role that way played by Hanoi in Indochina in the 1950's. We all know the extent or the state reached by Indochina after 15 years of the application of this plan by Hanoi. All Indochina turned into a bloc revolving in the expansionist Soviet orbit.

Naturally, there is a difference in [words indistinct] and in the population and in the individual character of man in this area of the great Arab homeland. But we also believe there are many tools which play this role in various ways. Our one concern with our brothers in the march of Gulf cooperation or in the march of Arab solidarity is that we not see another Saigon in our region. This demands that we be more vigilant, more cautious and and that we illuminate this danger because it is a danger that threatens our beliefs and our stability. There are living examples supplied by the Soviet Union in the past (?three) decades -- from Hungary to Czechoslovakia to Afghanistan and now in Poland [words indistinct].

We talk about the USSR with this clarity because it it clearly seeking to interfere in the internal affairs of others by various means, either through regimes it has installed especially for this purpose or by direct intervention, if that is necessary, with the full knowledge of the entire international community.

You are carrying a message to awaken the Arab man from his inattention. He should not be taken in by high-sounding slogans which appear to show mercy but inside show hostility to (?us). We in the information field are in general required to clarify the gravity of this danger and the extent of its seriousness to us as individuals, as states, as people who have a faith in God and in the message of heaven. For this reason we believe that international conflict [words indistinct] and we should (?have no hand) in this conflict and our region should not turn into an arena for this conflict.

There are many peices of evidence, from the tripartite treaty signed last year between South Yemen, Libya and Ethopia to the attempts made to conclude strategic alliances between the USSR and some Arab states and the many attempts made during this year and last year to divide the Arab ranks using various slogans with the same goal, namely to eliminate [words indistinct] (?unity of) the Arab ranks.

We here in the Gulf area [words indistinct] 300 km from the Strait of Hormuz, that is to say a half hour by military aircraft to the Strait of Hormuz. Any aircraft taking off from occupied South Yemen can reach any part of the Arabian peninsula within a half hour. The Arab region lies within the range of the USSR -- a half hour from any of Afghanistan, South Yemen or Libya. These form a triangle implanted in the body of the great Arab homeland, placing it under the sphere of Soviet influence [words indistinct].

These are developments which must be [words indistinct], and hence intensively discussed, dealt with, (?curbed) and then finished with. You are required to discuss these matters as specialized information men and to give a picture to the Arab man and Arab (?reader) wherever he is so that he can aquaint himself with these facts and so that he may protect himself from these attempts, either direct or indirect, against this advancing danger. Being silent about it means overlooking something that touches us to the very core.

[Question] Against this clear danger which Your Excellency points out, do you believe that the Gulf states, among them the Sultanate of Oman, have sufficient military strength to protect themselves from this [word indistinct] clear danger?

[Answer] As his majesty has declared more than once, the Sultanate of Oman is delighted with the progress made by the GCC and [words indistinct]. In less than a year the qualitative leaps it has made in cooperation is the greatest proof of this [word indistinct]. His majesty has issued his wise directives to all the competent organs in Oman to do their utmost to deploy all their resources to push Gulf cooperation to its highest limits.

It is the natural reply to all these attempts, in the face of this danger. The Gulf (?states) should be one integrated family linked to one another. Praise be to God, there are numerous pieces of evidence. Among them is the fact that what was not easy for us to talk about a year ago, namely Gulf security, is now on the daily agenda of the Gulf states. This in itself is really a promising qualitative leap. It reassures the friend and deters the enemy. With our faith in God and in our natural capabilities and through our belonging to the great Arab homeland we are endeavoring to act within this great Arab homeland with effect and with capabilities which will set up a basic safety valve for Arab security which is also an extension to the Gulf security to which we belong [as heard].

Naturally, we do not have the strength in the country to repulse the Soviet Union's invasion because we are a developing state. For this reason we sound the alarm so that all are alerted. If necessary we should all stand as one against this danger because in our union and cooperation lies a basic strength that cannot [word indistinct] at all.

If we flinch, if we are afflicted by second thoughts -- God forbid, this has not happened yet and will not happen -- naturally we will be an easy prey for any enemy or any person who wishes us evil. This bilateral meetings which (? are held by) Arab leaders and these regular conferences which are taking place are also the natural platforms for (? removing) this danger and discussing means for repulsing it or preventing its occurrence.

[Question] To complete the question from Mr (Makram Sabri): It is clear that the general feeling in the Gulf region is that the region should be defended from within or on the basis of its composite states and not from the presence of big powers from outside (in order to avoid) a polarization. Is the (?theory of Gulf security) based on [words indistinct], can the states of the region, through military assistance, undertake this action alone [words indistinct]?

[Answer] Gulf security is both a requirement and the end of these dangers and the fact that it is a source of vital energy to most states of the world. When we talk about Gulf security, it does not have a specific geographical meaning but it (?also) has another extension, which is an extension of mutual interests linking the Gulf region with various states of the world.

The theory of Gulf security lies in the fact that there should be joint collective Gulf action through which the Gulf states unify their capabilities and their ranks and employ their energies to achieve this end through various means and possibilities, be it through joint force, joint cooperation or (?modernization) and diversification of their arms and acquainting themselves with various weapons available to them. All these are factors which make up and add to the thing called Gulf security.

This theory also rests on keeping the Gulf region out of the arena of international conflict. If we are unable to effect this evacuation then in view of what is now happening, namely South Yemen's embrace of Soviet military, air and naval power which is now in range of the Gulf approaches, it is imperative to create a balance for this (?new) international presence before it is too late because, God forbid, if something happened and the Soviet Union wanted to extend its expansion in our region, it would be very late for us to seek help from any other party.

This does not mean the Gulf homelands should be bases for foreign states. No. In this country, the theory of Gulf security will not be based on any immovable foreign bases in this homeland. It is based on [words indistinct] friends. If necessary, the enemy, however developed, should know that we also have friends who can stand with us. [passage indistinct] We will prepare our defensive capabilities and our combat abilities to protect our homelands, stability, sovereignty and independence. And we will seek the help of our friends if necessary. This is the general concept of the theory of Gulf security.

Views Relations With Egypt

NC171619 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Excerpt] Muscat, 17 Feb (MENA) -- Omani Minister of Information and Youth Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz ar-Rawwas has paid tribute to the existing strong relations between Egypt and the Sultanate of Oman. He said that President Husni Mubarak's visit to Oman comes within the framework of these relations.

The Omani minister said that Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id discussed with President Mubarak the latest developments in the Middle East situation. He also briefed President Mubarak on the latest developments in the Gulf cooperation process.

At a press conference he held this morning and attended by the members of the press delegation accompanying President Mubarak, the Omani information and youth affairs minister affirmed that Oman will spare no effort to restore Arab solidarity among the Arab brothers and will support all efforts to restore unity to the Arab rank.

Ar-Rawwas pointed out that Oman has supported the Camp David accords as a step toward the solution of the problem out of its belief in the need to utilize all possible means for its solution. He said that on the basis of this principle Oman also supports the plan of Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the Saudi crown prince and deputy prime minister, for peace in the Middle East. In fact, he said, the Gulf states have adopted this plan and submitted it in their name to the Fes summit as an Arab working paper to achieve the strategic aims of the Arab nation, which are represented in the achievement of total withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, the return of Arab Jerusalem and the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

The Omani minister affirmed that these strategic aims can be achieved through peaceful negotiations, just as happened in the Sinai and during the first disengagement of forces in the Golan.

Ar-Rawwas affirmed that the restoration of normal Arab-Egyptian relations is considered a major Arab demand, particularly since Egypt is the brains of the Arab nation.

The Omani minister said Oman appreciates President Mubarak's announcement regarding Egypt's readiness to embrace the Arab League. He said this was a call on the Arabs to work for the restoration of Arab unity.

PFLO CONDEMNS SULTANATE'S RELATIONS WITH US

EA121920 Aden Voice of PFLO in Arabic to Oman 1545 11 Feb 82

[Text] Brothers: The agent regime in Muscat gave American Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger a red carpet reception during his 2-day visit to the Sultanate.

The U.S. secretary revealed part of his mission in Muscat when he told reporters on departure that Oman is ready to cooperate with the United States against any threat to the oil-rich Gulf region. How could this be otherwise when, ever since 1975, the agent regime of Qabus in Muscat has been granting the United States bases and military facilities on Omani territory and allowed U.S. forces to hold annual maneuvers there?

Since the liquidation of the defunct regime of the shah in Iran, Oman has emerged as an important link in U.S. strategy and a trusty gendarme for its interests in the oil-rich Gulf, that vital artery of the United States, West European industrial countries and Japan.

Under the present regime the Sultanate of Oman plays an important role in harboring mercenaries and training them to attack nationalist forces in the region. It should also be remembered that Oman is the scene of periodic large-scale U.S. military maneuvers by the Rapid Deployment Force whose latest Bright Star exercise also took place in Egypt, Sudan and Somalia.

During the U.S. secretary's visit, Muscat radio announced that his talks with officials of the agent regime were very important in view of the increased cooperation between the two countries. The U.S. secretary learned about the capability of the Omani Armed Forces, the efficiency of the troops and their knowledge of the latest weapons and other advanced equipment.

The radio added that the sultanate is making a great effort to build an army strong enough to defend the sacred soil and the property of the homeland and the region since the Omani Army serves as a shield for the Gulf states.

These explanations by the radio for the Muscat agent regime are clear and cogent proof that the reactionary imperialists are planning to use our sons as puppets to be manipulated by the enemies of the people since they are now equipping this army for a future reactionary role in certain countries in the region in the suppression of activities by people opposed to imperialist schemes and interests.

Having lost its firmist prop in the region with the disappearance of the shah's regime, the United States is planning, not to acquire bases in the region and deploy its forces of aggression there, but rather to use the armies of the countries in the region to protect its own interests and those of its West European allies in this oil-rich region coveted by te enemies of the people. For this reason it is striving might and main to set up a local force to ensure that its interests are protected without having to commit its own troops for the purpose.

This is the reason for the U.S. large-scale military support for Qabus' agent regime in Muscat, which for some time now has been boasting about its protection of the Gulf. To further this end, a royal decree a few weeks ago provided for the establishment of an Omani reserve force of Omani citizens, if this measure is implemented it will entail the mobilization of all of the Omani people. Even though the operation will take several years to bear fruit, the U.S. imperialists are taking steps to see that all is ready when the need arises.

They are also forging military alliances within the region. The development of relations between the Qabus regime and such other reactionary agent Arab regimes as those in Egypt, Sudan and Somalia is meant to make the military capacity of those countries available to the imperialist schemers. Qabus and his regime are not content merely to put Omani soil at the disposal of U.S. imperialism; he is now also trying to suppress the masses of Oman and make them available for use in U.S. plots. This is a major betrayal by the Qabus regime of the Omani nation, people and homeland. Yet the plot hatched by the United States and the Muscat agent regime will never come to fruition since our people are aware of the real nature of the designs of the United States and its agents.

They will steadfastly resist becoming an obedient tool of the enemies of the Omani and Arab nations. The masses of our people will refuse to join the royal regular and auxiliary forces.

The propaganda by the official information organs is nothing but misinformation and scandalous deceit aimed by helping the U.S. control our region and enslave its people. The masses of our Omani people fought a long fight against slavery, subjugation and domination and will never become quasi-mercenaries to be used by the regime and its masters to enslave and subjugate people in neighboring countries.

SAUDI ARABIA

ISRAELI RESPONSE TO WEINBERGER REMARKS DENOUNCED

LD172346 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] The American White House announced that the United States will not change its policy vis-a-vis Israel, and it has no plans to sell advanced weapons to Jordan. The American announcement came in response to strong criticism of the American administration by the Israeli enemy prime minister because of a remark made by the U.S. defense secretary during his last week's visit to Jordan last week. During his visit the defense secretary said that the United States might sell missiles and advanced aircraft to Jordan; however, Israel picked up the ball and attempted to throw it in the American goal. Israel, habitually fabricating events, raised a hue and cry aiming at intimidation despite the fact that according to the American version of the story, Jordan has not asked to buy these weapons. Moreover, in order to give its move more vicious dimensions, Israel has issued a decision from the Knesset condemning the American stance and pledging to try to prevent Jordan from having these weapons. The Knesset decision uses the pretext that this would disturb the balance of military supremacy which Israel is keen to maintain in its favor.

The superiority complex is clearly shown here, and Israel is very keen to maintain a position of superiority in relation to the Arab world as a whole. It is and will continue to be an essential and strong obstacle to achieving a just and durable solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Israel's feeling of superiority has led it and is still leading it to use force as a means of aggression to strike at any serious attempt to achieve a just and durable peace based upon securing the Palestinian people's rights and its legitimate right to set up an independent state on its own territory.

The Israeli enemy, which is striving to achieve military superiority vis-a-vis the Arab countries, and certain effective countries' contribution maintaining Israel as a superior power, is one of the issues that for the past 34 years has been preventing a return to normalcy.

The talk continues about Israeli superiority. However, to say that the American administration has started to look at this operation with caution is a possibility or even an inevitability which should be seriously considered relative to the American people's interests. This was indicated in the American defense secretary's speech when he said it is important for his country to have more than one friend in the Middle East. Does this mean that a change toward a balanced American policy might impose itself on the American political decision from the standpoint of the national interest of the American citizen?

UAE

RENAULT, OTHERS BANNED BY BOYCOTT OFFICE

GF121333 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 12 Feb 82 p 1

[Text] The Israel Boycott Office in Abu Dhabi is taking "appropriate measures" to boycott the French car manufacturer, Renault, in accordance with a resolution adopted by the Israel Boycott liaison officers at a conference held in Damascus recently.

Renault holds a 46 per cent share in the previously-banned US American Motors Corporation.

The measures also affected the Belgian bank, Bank Bruxelles Lambert and the French Banque Louis Dreyfus and all their American and British subsidiaries.

An American, a French, six Malaysian and two Indian companies were also involved in the ban.

Meanwhile, the UAE Ministry of Economy and Commerce has banned the import of apples from Egypt after it was proved that they originated from Israel.

Another Egyptian company, Sacarco Enterprises, has also been added to the blacklist after it was found working as an agent for a previously banned Belgian company, Europe Monasto.

AL-ITTIHAD CALLS FOR 'AT LEAST ONE' U.S. BOYCOTT

GF130847 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0603 GMT 13 Feb 82

[From the press review]

[Text] Manama, 13 Feb (WAKH) -- The UAE press today calls on the Arab foreign ministers currently meeting in Tunis to adopt a responsible decision that rises to challenge the Arab nation's enemies through determination and a unified and decisive stand.

AL-ITTIHAD affirms that the Arab foreign ministers conference is essentially a confrontation with ourselves as much as it is with the United States. The paper says: "There is no possibility of facing the United States without facing ourselves. We Arabs are not against the United States. We are against a United States that allies itself with our enemy and supports it militarily, politically, economically and diplomatically."

The newspaper calls for at least one boycott of the United States and says: "Putting an embargo on trade, economic and political relations with the United States with one strike seems to be an unattainable wish. Neither the Arab ministers currently meeting in Tunis nor the upcoming Arab summit will be able to carry out a total trade and financial boycott of the United States, because this requires preparation -- something that is not currently available in the Arab world in spite of the fact that everyone knows this truth."

The newspaper calls for benefitting from the experience of the 1973 October war and for taking the changes in the international situation into consideration. It also calls for creating a strategic balance with the Israeli enemy without disregarding the various weapons the Arab nation possesses, since they are helpful and importance.

PDRY

PAPER DEMANDS 'SEVEREST PENALTIES' FOR SABOTEURS

EA182248 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] SAWT AL-'UMMAL today condemned the ugly criminal conspiracies carried out by the terrorism and sabotage gang backed by known enemies abroad to harm our revolution and the gains of the workers and toilers in our country.

In today's issue the paper stressed that however vicious and malicious the methods and conspiracies of the enemies, our people have the ability to expose, from the first signs, any evidence of conspiracy and treachery. It reaffirmed that the working class will remain loyal and sincere to the principles of the YSP, the vanguard of strugglers. It will spare no effort and ability for permanent vigilance to protest and safeguard the gains of the revolution and achievements of the workers and toilers. The paper demanded the imposition of the severest penalties on the terrorism and sabotage gang.

PRESIDENT MAKES OFFICIAL VISIT TO CUBA

For Havana radio and TV reportage on the visit to Cuba of PDRY President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, including an 18 February meeting with Fidel Castro, see the Cuba section of the 17 February Latin America DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

YAR

PRESIDENT REITERATES NATION'S SUPPORT FOR IRAQ

GF140945 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0845 GMT 14 Feb 82

[Text] Riyadh, 14 Feb (WAKH) -- YAR President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has reiterated his country's support for Iraq in its war against Iran and said: Iran's lack of good intentions toward its Gulf neighbors is one of the things that has brought about changes in the region. This is in addition to the superpowers' stand on the Arab-Israeli conflict and their attempts to prevent any occurrences that might tip the balance of this dispute in the Arab's favor.

In a statement to the Saudi newspaper 'UKAZ published today, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said Iraq has never asked the YAR for any assistance in arms or volunteers.

The YAR president said he hopes the Iranian regime will respond to the mediation efforts Islamic countries, nonaligned countries and the international community are making to stop the Iraqi-Iranian war and put an end to the bloodshed, from which Zionism has profitted greatly. He also emphasized the need for Arab solidarity as a beginning for cooperation among Arab countries. He expressed optimism that the Fes summit will resume in order to serve primary Arab interests.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih reiterated his country's stand on the GCC and affirmed that the YAR supports any serious step to preserve the region's security, stability and constructive and fruitful cooperation.

PRESIDENT INTERVIEWED ON POLICY, CURRENT ISSUES

GF151838 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 14 Feb 82 p 9

[Nabil Ghazzawi interview with YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in San'a' -- date not given]

[Text] AS-SIYASAH: What is the nature of relations between Moscow and San'a'? What is new following your visit to the Soviet Union?

The president: Our visit to the Soviet Union was in response to the two countries' joint desire to develop bilateral relations, which were first established in 1928 in a manner commensurate with these relations. YAR-Soviet relations are based on the policy of nonalignment, which was determined by the goals of the 26 September Revolution. We implement this policy in a manner that serves our national and pan-Arab interests, peaceful coexistence in the world and noninterference in the internal affairs of others. The visit and the talks with Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev resulted in what can be viewed as a landmark achievement in the history of YAR-Soviet relations and their development in economic, cultural and technical fields.

AS-SIYASAH: Can you tell us about the security of the Red Sea, which is shared by a large number of Arab countries and can be considered an Arab lake?

The president: Red Sea security is part of the security of the region. We have expressed our interest and anxiousness to preserve this security to all the brothers, officials of both the PDRY and of the Arab countries as a whole. We support all efforts to keep the Red Sea, the Indian Ocean and the Gulf free of all kinds of foreign presence and international conflicts.

AS-SIYASAH: YAR citizens are doing their national duty as volunteers in the ranks of the Palestinian resistance to liberate the occupied Arab territories, foremost among which is Jerusalem. This gesture is made as a result of the Yemeni people's awareness and spirit of sacrifice for the Arab nation's causes. Can you explain to us some details about this role which is being undertaken despite the YAR's need for every effort?

The president: We have opened the door to volunteers from among the Yemeni people, for the readiness to sacrifice Yemeni blood is the best expression of the belief in our unity of destiny and in the Palestinian people's right to self-determination in their land, without resorting to bragging and outbidding. We have made martyrdom in the Palestinian trench equal to martyrdom in the defense of the glorious 26 September Revolution. We continue to hold this belief, a belief that is strengthened by our determination to continue with our comprehensive national construction, in view of the national and pan-Arab importance of such a stand. At the same time, we believe that Arab construction is indivisible and that any national [watani] victory is a pan-Arab victory and vice versa.

AS-SIYASAH: The draft constitution for the two parts of Yemen states that Islam will be the religion of the state whose capital will be San'a' and whose name will be the Yemen Arab Republic. It also declares that the state will promote the public sector. Can you talk to us about the most important articles of this constitution?

The president: It is exactly what you said. These are the most important features of the draft constitution for the two parts of Yemen. It is a constitution that takes into consideration all the appropriate objective conditions. The draft constitution of the unified state stresses that Islam is the state religion. This means that Islam will be an important and rich source of legislation and a source of progress and justice. On this basis the constitution includes a number of chapters that chart the necessary features on which the union of the two parts of Yemen will be based. This in itself is one of the important structures of unity.

AS-SIYASAH: Mr President, will San'a' hold parliamentary elections soon?

The president: Yes, San'a' will be holding elections for the Consultative Council. These elections will place power in the hands of the Yemeni people who have lengthy experience in democracy. This is embodied by the most important goal of the 26 September Revolution. The people govern themselves. They elect the highest authority that passes the laws that govern their lives and their state. Free, general and direct elections for the Consultative Council will certainly take place in the near future. This is not the only democratic practice in our country. We also have municipality elections. This is a new experiment and we wish it success. We also have elections for the cooperatives that have been established by the people to express their response to and support for their revolution. The number of cooperatives has become a source of pride for our people and revolution.

San'a' is also preparing to host several ministerial-level Arab conferences and conferences of Arab unions. The YAR is also preparing for the General Congress of Expatriates. Expatriation has been one of the characteristics of Yemeni life since the destruction of the Ma'rib Dam. We give our expatriate brothers all the care they need, and they give their country all that they can. Everyone attaches importance to familiarizing the Yemeni citizen with his country.

AS-SIYASAH: Mr President, has San'a' sent arms and volunteers to fraternal Iraq, and has it supported it in its war against Iran?

The president: We have declared our support for fraternal Iraq in its war with Iran because we realized the many difficulties that the Iraqi people suffered from the Iranian regime, particularly during the period that followed the Iraqi revolution in 1958. Iraq and the Gulf countries had expected a good-will gesture following the fall of the shah's regime in Iran, a gesture that confirms that the shah's regime, its ambitions and provocation of its neighbors have gone for good. However, nothing of the kind happened. Even when the war broke out we had great hopes that Iran would respond to reason, to the call for a dialogue and to its common ties with its Iraqi neighbor, while Iraq made several initiatives and showed a readiness to express its good intentions throughout the war between the two countries. So far Iraq has not requested any of the assistance mentioned in your question.

AS-SIYASAH: What is your stand on the recent call by King Husayn of Jordan for volunteers from all the Arab people to stand by their Iraqi brothers in their current war against Iran?

The president: So far our stand is to reject the intransigent Iranian attitude that rejects all mediation efforts by Muslim, nonaligned and Arab parties. We believe that such an attitude is very harmful to the capabilities and resources of the two neighboring Muslim peoples. We believe that it would be logical for Iranian officials to end the bloodshed so that it would not expand and benefit only the enemy who wishes destruction for both countries.

AS-SIYASAH: Mr President, there have been reports that during your coming tour of Arab Gulf countries, including Kuwait, later this month you will discuss with the leaders of these countries various Arab and intenrational issues, particularly the YAR's joining the GCC, as well as unity between the two parts of Yemen and the results of the talks between the YAR and the PDRY. What is your reply to this?

The president: Cooperation with the brothers in the Gulf exists. The outcome of our efforts to unify the two parts of Yemen is of interest to our brothers in the Gulf countries, who encourage the positive outcome of such steps because they enhance the security and stability of the countries of the Gulf and the Arabian peninsula. I would like to say in general that positive and responsibile Arab solidarity is the framework within which we act in all our policies, now that the threats are increasing. Sincere and honest efforts, however modest, are bound to generate the Arab hope that dissipates despair.

'ALI DISCUSSES TIES WITH ISRAELI JOURNALISTS

NC181824 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1713 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 18 Feb (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali today met with a delegation of Arab affairs editors of Israeli newspapers, radio and television now visiting Cairo.

During the meeting, 'Ali answered the journalists' questions, emphasizing the continuity and consistency of Egyptian policy, particularly in relation to the peace process. He said: With regard to the questions about the nature of the Egyptian-Israeli relations after 25 April, this date will constitute an important step to comprehensive peace.

He added: Naturally, such a step will eliminate an existing sensitivity and will represent the beginning of a spontaneous enhancement of normalization.

He said that by resolving the Palestinian issue, Egypt aims at achieving a comprehensive peace, since this issue is the crux of the problem and, by resolving it, the Middle East could dedicate itself to development and to confronting foreign dangers.

'Ali said: Egypt will play an important role in Arab-Israeli relations, so that what has taken place between Egypt and Israel will be considered an example for the Arabs in the future. On this basis, the political, economic and strategic importance of resolving the Palestinian issue and the establishment of Palestinian autonomy becomes clear.

His excellency replied to a question by saying: President Husni Mubarak's visit to Israel will take place in March and contacts will be made in the coming weeks to set a final date for this visit.

To another question, 'Ali said that full Palestinian autonomy is necessary for obtaining peace and a preparation for self-determination. Unless the other parties are encouraged to participate in the peace process, the objective will not be achieved. The autonomy talks must continue, and 25 April must not be a deadline for completing them. It is Egypt's plan to achieve a comprehensive peace and to reach a declaration of principles.

He said that the practical way to bring the autonomy talks out of deadlock is:

1. To work towards the Palestinian and Jordanian participation in the peace process.

2. To take into consideration the interests of both sides, not just the interests of one.

'Ali declared the need to implement confidence-building measures to encourage the Palestinians to participate in the negotiations. He also called for a halt to building settlements and for restraint in measures against Palestinian citizens in the West Bank and the Gaza sector.

Asked whether Oman will play a role in achieving an Arab-Egyptian reconciliation, 'Ali said that, as outlined in the statement that was issued in Cairo and Muscat yesterday, Sultan Qabus has adopted a courageous and effective position in the peace march. He added: We appreciate him. He said Oman undoubtedly can play a role when the time comes and the Arabs believe that Egypt's return is necessary for security and peace in the area.

'Ali added: Sudan and Somalia can also play the same role with the only distinction that Oman is a member state of the Gulf Cooperation Council and of the Tunis [Arab] League, believes in peace, appreciates Egypt's policy and has reservations about the Baghdad summit resolutions.

Asked about the possibility of reaching a solution to the autonomy negotiations, 'Ali said: I am optimistic about reaching a solution even to the biggest of problems, such as Jerusalem, land and population. He stressed that Egypt is not seeking a separate agreement and that its policy is firm on ending wars, normalizing relations, autonomy and seeking a comprehensive and just solution to the [Middle East] question. He said that an Israeli youth delegation will visit Egypt 28 February in return for the Egyptian youth delegation's visit within the framework of the normalization of relations between the two countries.

INFORMATION CHIEF MEETS ISRAELI MEDIA DELEGATION

NC181417 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] The minister of state for information, Mr Safwat ash-Sharif, met with a delegation of Arab affairs editors of Israeli newspapers, radio and television currently visiting Egypt.

The minister talked about the importance of the information media in bolstering and advancing the peace process in the region. He also discussed the responsibility of media personnel for strengthening and explaining the aims of the forthcoming phase to attain an overall and just peace.

The meeting also dealt with the normalization of relations between the two countries and cooperation in the areas of radio and television. Such cooperation will lead to a strengthening of trust and the creation of bridges of understanding between the region's people in a free and democratic information atmosphere.

MINISTER NOTES FRENCH, SOVIET, U.S. BIDS ON DAM

NC191031 Cairo MENA in English 1005 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 19 Feb (MENA) -- Egypt is at present promoting the performance of the high dam power station and Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy, explained today to the BBC that this meant raising the power capacity rendered by the dam to the country.

In an interview with the BBC he said that reports that America would supervise the reparation of 12 turbines of the dam, he said that the word repair was not correct because the turbines were excellent. He would rather put that the U.S. would supervise work on promoting the turbines' performance and improving on their efficiency through the latest development means.

The BBC Arabic service further quoted the Egyptian minister as saying that biddings for the full development of the high dam have already been offered to Egypt by France, the Soviet Union and the United States.

Asked on the return of the Soviet experts to work on the dam development, Abazah said that in case of agreement between Egypt and the USSR in this connection, a very limited number of Soviet experts will take part in raising the performance of two of the turbines.

'ARAFAT MEETS EGYPTIAN OPPOSITION PARTY LEADER

NC190816 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] Yesterday evening Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] met with the assistant secretary general of the Egyptian National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party's Central Committee, Dr Rifiat as-Sa'id. During the meeting, a general discussion was held on developments in the Arab region and the historical links between the fraternal Egyptian and Palestinian people.

AL-BAYAN INTERVIEWS NPUG'S KHALAD MUHYI AD-DIN

GF190425 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 16 Feb 82 p 12

[Interview granted to AL-BAYAN correspondent in Cairo by Khalid Muhyi ad-Din, Egyptian National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party leader -- date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] How do you view the difference between As-Sadat's regime and Husni Mubarak's now that Mubarak has been president for more than 100 days?

[Answer] A change has taken place at the top, but the regime remains the same. However, President Mubarak does pursue a new style in political practices and in tackling certain significant issues such as:

- The halting of the political and press campaign against Arab countries, which was deepening hatred between Egypt and the Arab peoples during the As-Sadat era.

- The Egyptian Army's pullback from the border with Libya and the announcement of a discreet stand that stresses rejection of war against any Arab country.

- The nonindulgence of abuse against certain foreign superpowers, such as the Soviet Union, despite the regime's friendship with the United States (By the way, we do not demand that he show emnity toward the United States) and his official announcement that Egypt will not be part of a superpower strategy. This principle, in particular, means reconsidering many things. We do not demand a miracle from President Mubarak, but this point is considered to be the most serious of all because our dealings with all parties after the Israelis evacuate the rest of Sinai in April will be decided in accordance with how well we implement it.

This will reflect on our domestic, economic, Arab and foreign policies. When Husni Mubarak decides not to be part of the Western-U.S.-Israeli alliance, this implies that he must return to the Arab world as an element of unity, rather than the reverse.

This is one of the substantial bases of the struggle of the Egyptian national movement also.

[Question] Do you not think it will be difficult to abandon the United States and the West, particularly since the army's weapons depend completely on the West?

[Answer] We appreciate the circumstances of obtaining arms from the West, but there should be genuine diversification in sources of arms. Moreover, there should be a variation in our economic and political relations. Egypt must not participate in the international struggle currently taking place between the two camps but should act only in accordance with its own interests. We can say that proper execution of this policy will be an important signal of a change in President Husni Mubarak's regime.

[Question] What happened to the front that began to be formed between the independent and opposition parties against the As-Sadat regime?

[Answer] Before the fall of As-Sadat, there was a declared front which consisted of all the powers. Its aim was to cancel the existing policies, as all the national powers had completely lost hope in the possibility of reforming the regime's policies, particularly with regard to the issue of national independence and continuous concessions to foreigners. Under current circumstances, however, in which President Mubarak has announced his commitment to many of the points which the opposition demanded (with the exception of Camp David accords), the issue now is the formation of a national front to rescue Egypt, and this will not be aimed at anybody.

[Question] Are you also issuing an invitation to the ruling party?

[Answer] The invitation is for everybody, inside or outside the ruling party, provided the following points are the basis:

-Nonalignment in foreign policy.

-Return to Arab ranks and abandon any involvement in what the PLO rejects regarding the issue of the Palestinian people.

-Bolstering Egypt's economic independence and protecting national industry.

[Question] In such a situation, how would you view Camp Daivd and the Israeli-Egyptian treaty?

[Answer] We did not stop our struggle for our goals, but our opposition to Camp David has to be reviewed. For instance, after April we shall concentrate on rejection of all the negative issues that bind us to Israel through this treaty. We shall continue to demand a good Egyptian policy toward the Arabs and denounce involvement in the issue of "autonomy" that does not achieve the aspirations of the Palestinian people.

MUBARAK RECEIVES FORMER U.S. ENVOY, AUC GROUP

NC151203 Cairo MENA in English 1130 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak received today former U.S. ambassador to Egypt Herman Eilts.

He then received the delegation representing the board of trustees of the American University in Cairo [AUC] led by the AUC rector.

The rector said that he discussed with President Mubarak means of developing the AUC in Cairo and means of developing education in Egypt.

He added that the meeting was good and important.

Deputy Rector 'Abd al-Khaliq 'Allam said that the meeting also dealt with laying down the general broadlines of the AUC policy and means of funding it. The AUC depends on its financing on 75 per cent of private aid.

He added that they discussed policy of the new departments which were added to the AUC.

Concluding he said that the meeting was good and that President Mubarak left a good impression on the 21-man delegation.

AL-KARIM CALLS FOR EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF OPEC

JN182100 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, Revolution Command Council member and minister of oil, asserted that the Iranian regime's decision to reduce the price of its oil officially, represents a blatant violation of OPEC's resolutions, a danger to the organization and all that it has achieved.

In a statement to INA in reply to the Iranian regime's decision, the minister of oil said that Iraq has called for an extraordinary meeting of OPEC's ministers before the end of this month for consultation on the present oil market situation and the factors affecting it so as to coordinate stands and to adopt necessary steps regarding this matter.

The minister added that our call for the extraordinary meeting stems from our strong desire to deal soundly with the situation that the organization encounters in the correct way which must be adopted within the framework of the organization. That does not mean at all that we do not have the ability to take the necessary steps to guarantee Iraq's interest and rights in the event of the organization's failure to guarantee the interests of everyone.

Tayih 'Abd al-Karim said that Iran through its stands asserts day after day its departure from all that concerns the interests of OPEC countries and the Third World, thus adopting policies and stands that serve the interests of imperialism and Zionism before any other consideration.

Thus, boasting and trying to outbid others to support the struggle of our people in Palestine against Zionism, which is the enemy of mankind, no longer fools any one since the falsity of its claims was revealed through its practices which represent gaps that hostile forces have succeeded in exploiting to weaken OPEC and its countries.

He added: We call on all OPEC countries to be worthy of their responsibilities in confronting the dangers that threaten the organization and to avoid slipping down this path. The minister said: Therefore, Iraq has called for an extraordinary meeting of OPEC ministers before the end of the month for consultation on the present situation of the oil market and to study the factors affecting it to coordinate stands and to take the necessary steps regarding this matter.

RAMADAN MEETS GDR'S KLEIBER, COMMENTS ON WAR

JN171610 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1535 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Feb (INA) -- Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, received Guenther Kleiber here today, deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, and his accompanying delegation.

Ramadan expressed satisfaction with the progress of relations and cooperation between the two friendly countries, stressing the importance of promoting them in all fields to serve the interests of the two friendly countries and peoples. Ramadan added that the continued meetings between the two countries' officials will contribute greatly to strengthening these relations. He reiterated Iraq's desire to pursue these meetings to achieve stronger relations between the two countries in all fields.

Referring to the war of aggression that the Iranian regime has imposed on Iraq, Ramadan said: We are a country which does not seek war. We, however, have legitimate rights which we do not want to relinquish.

He explained that Iraq spares no efforts to seek a peaceful solution to the Iraqi-Iranian dispute that will safeguard our legitimate rights to our land and water despite all the Iranian regime's intransigent stands and our superior military position on all the battlefronts.

Kleiber expressed his country's satisfaction with the advanced relations between the two friendly countries and with the meetings of the seventh session of the Iraqi-GDR joint committee currently meeting in Baghdad, which reflect the strength of the cooperation between the two countries in all fields.

Kleiber added that his country supports and appreciates the efforts that Iraq has been and is exerting to settle the dispute with Iran through peaceful means. He said that the forces in Iran who are cooperating with U.S. imperialism are more powerful than the peace-loving forces. Kleiber called on all peace-loving countries to cooperate in putting pressure on Iran to have it respond to Iraq's calls for a peaceful settlement of the dispute.

The two sides discussed the various aspects of cooperation between the two countries, and ways of strengthening it to serve the interests of the two countries and the two peoples.

Taha Yasin Ramadan asked Kleiber to convey his greetings to Willi Stoph, chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, and his wishes for further progress and prosperity to the friendly German people.

Sign Joint Cooperation Minutes

JN181600 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1455 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Feb (INA) -- Iraq and the GDR signed here this afternoon joint minutes at the conclusion of seventh session of the joint Iraq-GDR committee for economic trade and technical cooperation. Hasan 'Ali, Revolution Command Council member and trade minister, signed for Iraq and Guenther Kleiber, deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, signed for the GDR.

The minutes provide for programming bilateral cooperation for the current year in the fields of industry, agriculture, irrigation, oil, transportation, communications and cadre training. They also provide for a trade cooperation plan for the same period. Hasan 'Ali and Guenther Kleiber each expressed their satisfaction with the results of the seventh session meetings and asserted that these meetings will further enhance cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Message From GDR's Honecker

JN171222 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Feb (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from GDR State Council Chairman Erich Honecker, dealing with cooperation between the two friendly countries and the ways of ending the Iraqi-Iranian war. The message was delivered by Guenther Kleiber, deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, who was received by the president today. In his message, Honecker expressed his deep satisfaction with the developed bilateral relations, stressing that Iraq and the GDR possess joint experiences to further consolidate this cooperation in the interest of both countries. He added that their identical views on the struggle against imperialism constitute a good basis for the expansion of cooperation in the various fields.

The State Council chairman praised Iraq's efforts to render successful the seventh Nonaligned summit conference in Baghdad next September, stressing that the conference will exert noble efforts to solve international problems as a contribution to world peace and security.

Honecker also asserted his country's interest in ending the Iraqi-Iranian conflict with a just solution that serves peace and progress in the region and in the world.

ARMED FORCES ISSUES COMMUNIQUE NO 620

JN181740 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Feb (INA) -- During the past 24 hours, the Iraqi forces inflicted massive losses on the Iranian enemy's forces. The known enemy losses were 102 killed and 5 entrenchments, 1 tank, 1 armored personnel carrier, 2 vehicles, 2 observation posts and 1 stockpile of hardware were destroyed. This was stated in the Iraqi military communique No 620, which was issued by the Armed Forces General Command this evening. The communique added that all day today the Iraqi fighter planes and helicopters launched effective attacks against the enemy positions and concentrations in the central and southern sectors, inflicting large losses in personnel and vehicles and setting these targets on fire before returning safely to base. The communique put our losses at 20 martyrs in all sectors and 1 vehicle and 1 mortar damaged. The following is the text of the communique:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

In defense of Iraq's rights and honor and of the Arab nation's dignity, our valiant forces continue to fight the forces of the racist Persians. The results of the activities carried out in the operational sectors yesterday evening and today were as follows:

1. Our valiant units in the Bostan sector continued to strongly pound the enemy units, inflicting massive losses amounting to 70 killed and 2 vehicles, 1 observation post and 1 stockpile of hardware destroyed.
2. Our valiant air force pilots launched effective attacks all day long against the enemy positions and concentrations in the central and southern sectors of the battlefield, inflicting large losses on the enemy's personnel, vehicles and equipment. Our ground units could hear explosions and see fire rising from these targets. All our aircraft returned safely to base.
3. Our helicopters today attacked the enemy positions and concentrations in the southern sector of the battlefield, scoring direct and effective hits before returning safely to base.
4. A force belonging to our forward units attacked the enemy positions and concentrations in the Shush area and clashed with the enemy with various weapons, killing eight and destroying one armored personnel carrier.
5. One of our forward units sighted an enemy concentration opposite our positions in the Sumar area and pounded it with various weapons, killing seven and destroying five entrenchments.
6. Four were killed in the Gilan-e Gharb area.
7. Four were killed in the Nowsud area.
8. Three were killed and one observation post was destroyed in the Khafajiyah area.
9. Four were killed in the Mehran area.
10. Two were killed and one tank was destroyed in the Abadan area.

Thus, the total known enemy losses amount to 102 killed and 5 entrenchments, 1 tank, 1 armored personnel carrier, 2 vehicles, 2 observation posts and 1 stockpile of hardware destroyed.

11. Our sacrifices:

    A. In personnel: 20 martyrs in all sectors.
    B. In equipment: one vehicle and one mortar damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 February 1982

HASAN IBRAHIM RECEIVES U.S. SENATOR GLENN

JN171506 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Amman, 17 Feb (PETRA) -- Hasan Ibrahim, minister of occupied land affairs and acting foreign minister, today received U.S. Senator John Glenn and his accompanying delegation. Ibrahim explained to the U.S. delegation Jordan's stand on the Middle East issue of achieving a comprehensive settlement and establishing a just peace in the region. He also reviewed the Israeli occupation authorities' practices in the occupied Arab territories, such as the establishment of settlements, the confiscation of land and the harrassment of the citizens, which contribute to legalizing the occupation and constitute obstacles to peace. The meeting was attended by the U.S. ambassador in Amman. Senator Glenn and his accompanying delegation arrived in Amman this morning on a visit to Jordan as part of a tour of the region.

Husayn Meets With Glenn

JN171538 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Amman, 17 Feb (PETRA) -- His Majesty King Husayn received in Al-Hummar Palace at noon today U.S. Senator John Glenn. The meeting was attended by the prime minister, the chief of the royal court, the court minister, the chief chamberlain, the Jordanian Armed Forces commander in chief and the minister of information.

ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER'S REMARKS CRITICIZED

JN190954 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 19 Feb 82

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Under the headline "The Significance of the new Israeli Strategy," AR-RA'Y says: The significance of the new Israeli strategy announced by Sharon is to prevent the buildup of Arab power by force in order to maintain Israel's military superiority in the region. This raises the following questions: Is there any connection between this strategy and the U.S. pledge to preserve Israeli military superiority both qualitatively and quantitatively, and between this and the scenario of adventures previously talked about by U.S. circles? These circles believed that Israel will very likely carry out this latest scenario before the completion of its withdrawal from the Sinai on 25 April.

AR-RA'Y adds: At any rate, the strategy announced by Sharon means that Israel has decided to impose the battle on the Arabs even if the Arabs do not initiate it. This matter must be seriously considered by the Arabs and dealt with accordingly because the problem facing them is not that of restoring their usurped rights as was previously the case, but has expanded to include the defense of Arab sovereignty from Israeli domination over their decisions to supply their armies with weapons. Needless to say, all this cannot be achieved through resolutions and protests, but with the upcoming struggle which will benefit from the past experience of the strugglers.

Israel is now betting that the Arabs have relinquished their dignity and is making its calculations and decisions accordingly. The only way to reply to that is to pull the teeth of the arrogant aggressors and furnish proof that Arab dignity will remain forever. Let those who open the doors of the region in the face of strong winds remember that the Arabs will never submit to the Israeli umbrella or to chauvinist threats. And if the winds blow it will not be that easy to control them, and perhaps they will upset many relations which go beyond the region, the price of which will be paid by the adventurers and their allies alike.

'ARAFAT, FATAH PREPARE FOR ISRAELI MOVE IN SOUTH

NC181333 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Feb 82

[From "With The Events" Program]

[Excerpt] The Palestinian command is making preparations at various levels as the possibility of the enemy waging a military aggression against southern Lebanon increases.

For the second day, Brother Commander Abu'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] inspected the positions of the military forces in southern Lebanon, giving his directives and observations to the brother commanders and fighters in the joint forces.

On his visit to the artillery forces yesterday Brother Abu 'Ammar was accompanied by Brother Abu al-Walid [Brig Gen Sa'd Sayil], member of the Fatah Central Committee and chief of the Central Operations of the joint forces, and Brother Abu at-Tayyib, member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council.

In light of increasing military concentrations and the enemy commanders' threats against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples, Brother Abu 'Ammar listened to a detailed explanation of the military situation in the military sectors facing the Zionist concentrations.

Meanwhile, observers are becoming increasingly convinced of the possibility of an imminent Zionist aggression against the south following field measures embarked upon by the enemy as a prelude to his aggression, coupled with daily threats. After civil defense exercises in the northern settlements, the enemy took new measures yesterday to exacerbate the situation. These measures include the request made to the Senegalese UNIFIL contingent in southern Lebanon to abandon its positions in the central sector, particularly in Al-Ghanduriyah township. The Senegalese forces commander has submitted a report to the UN command in An-Naqurah on the size of the Israeli concentrations. He said that Israeli forces reinforcements have increased on the Al-Khiyam Plain and in the eastern sector and have been reinforced with long-range artillery and Hawk missiles. The Israeli forces have also recalled their reserves while the people in nearby settlements have been evacuated.

Although the Zionist request that the Senegalese forces withdraw from the central sector may suggest the possibility of a military advance toward them, the extensive Israeli concentrations, however, indicate that several areas could be the target of the expected Zionist aggression. This has been confirmed by the UN command, which said that the Israeli military movements have been active in the Mount Hermon area and in the eastern sector as well as in the central and western sectors in the south.

Meanwhile, the joint command has taken the necessary military precautions to confront any unexpected eventuality.

VOP on Israeli Concentrations

JN181706 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in English 1500 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Reports from south Lebanon today affirm that Israeli military forces are still concentrated in the areas of Marj 'Uyun, Al-Khuraybah and Al-Qulay'at. At dawn today a number of Israeli military units entered the areas of Kafr Shuba and Kafr Haman in the eastern sector, while Israeli planes have been flying over the south all day.

Israeli helicopters last night threw light flares over the area of (Wadi) [name indistinct] and Israeli war boats have been patroling the Lebanese southern coast.

The Lebanese Natonal Movement Central Political Council will hold a meeting this evening to discuss the adoption of mobilization plans to confront the approaching Zionist aggression against Lebanon.

VOL ON PALESTINIAN MILITARY MOVEMENTS IN SOUTH

NC191144 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] According to reports received by the Voice of Lebanon today irregular Palestinian military movements were taking place in the districts of Al-Jiyah, as-Sa'diyat, and Wadi az-Zaynah. These reports say that several armored vehicles and jeeps equipped with machineguns were patrolling the Wadi az-Zaynah road where large groups of people were seen, especially near Mar Jiryis church in Al-Jiyah, which the Palestinians occupied and converted into a military center.

The reports add: Enlisted Palestinian women were seen along the road wearing emblems on their arms with the inscription "The Palestinian Military Police." Civilian vehicles carrying armed men were also seen moving in an irregular manner. The Voice of Lebanon had pointed out last Wednesday that there were more than 1,000 armed Palestinians in the coastal town of Ash-Shuf.

ARMENIAN REVOLUTIONARY RAPS CONSERVATIVE GROUPS

GF180608 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanese Armenians in Armenian 1330 GMT 4 Feb 82

[Third part of interview with Hagop Hagopian, one of the leaders of the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia -- date, place not given; read by announcer]

[Excerpts] [Question] Comrade Hagop Hagopian, how do you explain the meaning of revolutionary activity?

[Answer] In reality, it is easy for an individual in the Armenian world to assume he is a fighter. The Armenian citizen can believe he is carrying out a political struggle when he assails or scorns a party member. The absurdity of this matter had gained such proportions that individuals who sing revolutionary songs at banquets consider themselves strugglers.

Frightened by the attacks of the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia [ASALA], misguided Armenian youths defend the conservative party clubs in Lebanon, the United States and Europe.

The situation of Armenian youths has become rediculous due to the wicked instructions of party leaders -- leaders who mislead the youths by convincing them that ASALA is a threat to the Armenian cause. Believing in their leaders, the poor youths consider the defense of the banquet clubs a way of defending the Armenian cause. Unfortunately, the meaning of the revolution is lost in Armenian youths.

We truly say that we have made great efforts to clear the minds of those youths who have been misled all these years. A number of young men and women were not able to undertake revolutionary activities because they misunderstood the meaning of the revolution.

The true revolutionary is one who is deprived of his family, one who endures hardship, hunger and cold. ASALA consists of such true revolutionaries, who remain hungry for days and live in small rooms for months. These are the real revolutionaries and not the ones who consider revolution a means of passing time, a hobby.

It is up to the Armenian youths to get fid of the reactionary teachings of their parties and deal with matters scientifically.

[Question] Do you think the united endeavors of the Armenian parties and organizations can be useful to realize the aims of the Armenian people?

[Answer] Unification of the Armenian parties and their endeavors is a very important matter for the liberation of Armenia and the victory of the Armenian cause. ASALA principles are based on the concept of unity as well as power and understanding. As you know, ASALA consists of patriotic youths who are members of the Tashnag, Hentshag, Ramgavar and Communist Parties. All of our members live together in solidarity and far from fanaticism. The only matter that is not forgivable in our ranks is treachery. We are able to say that the Armenian youths are united and will continue to be so in the future to punish the treacherous leaders.

[Question] Comrade Hagopian, is it possible for the Armenian SSR to easily become the base for ASALA's national liberation struggle?

[Answer] In reality, this is a bit difficult at the present. But we strongly believe in the realization of our [word indistinct]. We greatly trust the capabilities of our people, the Armenian people in Soviet Armenia and overseas will be revolutionaries and will [word indistinct] in the ultimate mission of liberating western Armenia to establish a socialist revolutionary government. Our people will decide their own fate. We continue our struggle -- with strong confidence in our people -- to liberate our fatherland and create a united Armenia.

[Question] Comrade Hagopian, as you know the Armenian people are being subjected to pressure by Khomeyni's government. Khomeyni's government executed two members of ASALA last year -- Yeghia Keshisian and Zaven Apetian. After this ASALA promised to take steps against the Khomeyni government. Can you explain the steps your organization intends to take?

[Answer] When the Iranian Islamic Government executed our two fedayeen, Yeghia Keshishian and Zaven Apetian, all revolutionary forces in the world condemned the Khomeyni administration's inhuman act. But it is important to deal with matters scientifically. How can we expect an administration which annihilates thousands of its citizens to extend good treatment to Armenian revolutionaries? ASALA undertook measures after the execution of our two fedayeen. However, considering the security of our Armenian people in Iran, we will not disclose anything at the present. If we make any mistake in our calculations, we will risk the lives of the Iranian Armenians because the fanatical Iranian government is hysterical and has completely lost its nerve.

We want to ask the bourgeois Tashnag leaders how they can cooperate with such an Iranian Government, a government that undertakes fascist measures against Armenian people, closes down the Iranian Armenian schools and prohibits teaching in Armenian.

BEIRUT REPORTS MIDNIGHT EXPLOSION IN MAR ILYAS

NC182310 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] An explosion took place at midnight tonight in Mar Ilyas area [in Beirut]. The security authorities are trying to pinpoint the place of the explosion.

At 2030 yesterday [18 February] a 500-gram explosive device exploded under a BMW car, destroying the car which was parked outside the central post office building in Riyad as-Sulh square. The car belonged to a post office employee.

FREE LEBANON LEADER LEAVES HOSPITAL 19 FEB

NC191050 Marj 'Uyun Voice of Hope 1000 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] The leader of free Lebanon, Maj Sa'd Haddad, left hospital today in excellent health, according to the doctors' report.

Major Haddad wishes to thank all those who visited him in the hospital, prayed for him or enquired about his health. He requests that those who wish to visit him at his home to congratulate him on his recovery should refrain from doing so for now because he still needs some rest.

REPORTAGE ON EXPLOSION IN DAMASCUS 18 FEB

SANA Blames 'Agent'

JN181719 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Damascus, 18 Feb (SANA) -- An agent of Israel and the CIA from the Muslim Brotherhood gang at noon today exploded a mined Suzuki car near the AL-BA'TH newspaper building on the Al-Mazzah highway. Building guards were able to kill the criminal who drove the car near the building and attempted to escape.

The explosion set a number of cars near the explosion site on fire and broke glass in the building. A number of employees were slightly injured by shards of glass but their normal duties were not affected. There was no loss of life.

KUNA Report

LD181354 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1329 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Damascus, 18 Feb (KUNA) -- An explosion occurred at noon today in the building of the Syrian Ba'th party and the Ministry of Information, situation along Al-Mazzan highway in the suburbs of Damascus. The explosion caused material damage and the number of casualties is not yet known.

Ambulances and fire engines rushed to the scene and the injured are being removed to the city's hospitals. All roads leading to the building have been sealed off. Large numbers of security forces have surrounded the building.

Monte Carlo Version

JN181530 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] A huge explosion occurred this afternoon near the building which houses the Syrian Information Ministry and the newspaper AL-BA'TH, organ of the ruling party.

According to preliminary reports, several ministry officials were injured and there were large material losses.

We have received information on how the explosion took place. It seems that a pickup truck tried to enter the building's garage but the security men were suspicious and they prevented it from entering. The driver then detonated the pickup truck, which was loaded with 200 kgs of dynamite.

It is difficult to know who the driver was since he was torn apart by the explosion and only his leg was discovered. This is a preliminary report. Any additional information we receive will be broadcast in our subsequent news summaries and newscasts.

AL-BA'TH EDITORIAL RIDICULES USE OF DYNAMITE

JN190924 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0835 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] Damascus, 19 Feb (SANA) -- AL-BA'TH says that Syria's achievements for the Arab cause on the political and militant levels constitutes a tremendous turning point. In today's editorial, the paper adds that Washington will try to bring pressure to bear on Syria, which is confronting U.S. schemes with solid determination and steadfastness.

Continuing, Al-BA'TH says that revolutionary Syria has always said no to all offers of capitulation and blackmail presented by the various U.S. administrations. Syria is fully aware that the United States has recruited a large number of elements and tools to defame Syria and disrupt security in an attempt to weaken it and the decision to confront the United States and its aggressive designs in the region.

Accordingly, Syria has prepared and immunized itself against all kinds of U.S. pressures which are being engineered by the Pentagon chiefs to subjugate our people to the U.S. influence inside and outside.

The paper adds that the architects of U.S. policy thought that, in view of its vicious record throughout contemporary Arab history, the Muslim Brotherhood gang would be the most efficient agent tool on behalf of Washington and Tel Aviv for harming Syria's steadfastness and wrecking its lofty Arab stand against all attempts at subjugation and capitulation. The paper asks: How could the U.S. mind be persuaded that butting against walls with dynamite would weaken the solid Syrian decision and our people's steadfastness, which has never been shaken? In conclusion AL-BA'TH asserts that ramming walls with dynamite will not change Syria's determination or its valiant course.

PRESS SCORES U.S. SUPPORT TO MUSLIM BROTHERS

JN190753 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0605 GMT 19 Feb 82

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-BA'TH says: The architects of U.S. policy thought that, in view of its vicious record throughout contemporary Arab history, the Muslim Brotherhood gang would be the most efficient agent tool on behalf of Washington and Tel Aviv for harming Syria's steadfastness and wrecking its lofty Arab stand against all attempts at subjugation and capitulation. Accordingly, a series of crimes were perpetrated and a flagrant U.S. propaganda campaign launched to cover up for and defend the criminals and killers in Syria.

Washington's bet on the remnants of the Muslim Brotherhood gang has been great with the hope of diverting attention from Syria's remarkable political victory at the United Nations in favor of the Arab issue.

ATH-THAWRAH says: Israel has completed military preparations for attacking Lebanon and Syria and has asked the UN forces to pull out of their positions in southern Lebanon. These preparations are accompanied by daily threats under a U.S. political and military umbrella preparatory to carrying out the aggression. These frenzied threats reflect the extent of the grudges the Zionists and their U.S. supporters hold for steadfast Syria. They also reflect the extent of confusion gripping them after the political and diplomatic setback inflicted on them by Syria at the UN General Assembly.

TISHRIN writes: The flagrant war being prepared by the Americans in coordination with the trio of Begin, Sharon and Reagan will not intimidate or terrorize Syria. Rather, it will backfire on the aggressors because Syria has become the hope and aspiration of the Arab masses. Syria enjoys worldwide support from friends and allies led by the Soviet Union and is today a liberation stronghold which will fully play its role of safeguarding Arab destiny and strengthening the liberation march on the three continents.

AAPSO CONFERENCE ISSUES FINAL STATEMENT

JN181952 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] The AAPSO Arab and Middle East committees conference for supporting Syria's steadfastness has strongly condemned the Zionist enemy government's aggressive step of annexing the occupied Syrian Arab Golan Heights.

The conference affirmed that the Golan Heights are an integral part of the Syrian Arab Republic and that Israel's declaration to annex them is a flagrant violation of the principles of the UN Charter and resolutions and of international law, norms and conventions. This came in the final statement issued today by the conference, which ended its deliberations last night after 3 days of meetings by delegations from the Arab and world committees of AAPSO. The conference called on world public opinion and the forces of freedom and peace everywhere to raise their voices and express support for the Arab people who struggle to liberate their occupied territories, to denounce Israel's policy of annexation and to put an end to Zionist arrogance.

The conference affirmed support for Syria's policy and firm national stands in facing the imperialist-Zionist plot and called on the peoples of the world and their progressive and national forces to stand by Syria in its glorious struggle to liberate the Golan Heights and liquidate Israeli occupation. The conference also affirmed that the Zionist enemy decision constitutes a threat to international peace and security and that it is necessary to deter Israel by all means to prevent it from continuing its aggressive measures and to impose needed sanctions against it. The conference called on the states that voted for the UN General Assembly resolutions and that still maintain relations with Israel to sever these relations in implementation of the General Assembly resolution calling on them to isolate Israel internationally. The conference saluted the solidarity of struggle among Syria, the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese National Movement and Syria's prominent role in the struggle against the imperialist-Zionist plot and in strengthening and increasing the efficiency of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front in mobilizing and unifying Arab energies and forces at this stage. The conference denounced the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance, which affirms the U.S. role as Israel's partner in aggression against the Arab nation and the peoples in the region. The conference deplored the U.S. use of the veto at the UN Security Council in a manner that violated the spirit of the UN Charter. The conference called for boycotting the United States and using the oil weapon to confront the U.S.-Zionist aggression.

The conference saluted the solidarity of struggle between the Arab nationalist forces and the anti-imperialist world forces headed by the Soviet Union and other socialist states, and praised the role of the nonaligned states in supporting the Arab and Palestinian struggle and in backing national liberation movements.

The conference called on all the Arab masses and peace, freedom and progress-loving peoples in the world to firmly stand by Syria in its struggle against the imperialist and Zionist plots. The conference called for supporting Syria's just struggle against hostile plots and requested all the states that approved the UN General Assembly resolution to impose sanctions on Israel to implement it. The conference affirmed Syria's right to continue its just struggle with all the means available to it in order to restore its national rights. The conference expressed its absolute confidence in Syria's ability to realize victory through its continued confrontation of imperialist and Zionist plots.

Concluding its statement, the conference declared the support of all the forces of freedom, peace and progress for the heroic and just struggle of Syria under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad in defense of the Arab nation and its just causes and in defense of the common destiny of the forces of freedom, peace and progress in the world.

SANA, BTA SIGN COOPERATION AGREEMENT 16 FEB

JN161550 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Excerpt] Damascus, 16 Feb (SANA) -- A cooperation agreement was signed here today between SANA and the Bulgarian news agency [BTA] which aims to strengthen and develop relations, exchange expertise and train technical and press cadres.

Boyan Traykov, Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee candidate member and TBA director general, signed the agreement on behalf of Bulgaria, and Sabir Falhut, director general of SANA, signed on behalf of Syira.

LEBANON'S KAMIL AL-AS'AD CONCLUDES VISIT

JN182027 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Excerpt] Kamil al-As'ad, chairman of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies and president of the Arab Parliamentary Union, left Damascus for Beirut today after a 24-hour visit to Syria.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES CYPRIOT PARTY CHAIRMAN

JN172010 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 2000 tonight Dr Vastos Lissaridhis, chairman of the Cypriot United Democratic Movement of the Center. They discussed the Arab region and eastern Mediterranean's subjection to a vicious imperialist-Zionist onslaught aimed at the powers of liberation and progress in general and the Arab nation in particular, especially Syria.

Dr Lissaridhis praised Syria's steadfast stand before this onslaught in defense of the Arab nation and the powers of liberation and progress. He reasserted that the progressive powers in Cyprus support Syria's valiant stand and condemn attempts to shake this steadfast Syrian stand.

President al-Asad said the progressive powers in the eastern Mediterranean are fighting a battle against imperialist-Zionist designs. He emphasized the inevitability of victory regardless of sacrifices.

BA'TH OFFICIAL RECEIVES ERITREAN DELEGATION

JN182015 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant Ba'th Party secretary general, this evening received the Eritrean Revolutionary Council delegation which includes Brothers Salith Ayay and 'Abdallah Idris, members of the Revolutionary Council of the Eritrean Liberation Front, and 'Umar Sulayman, official in charge of the front's office in Damascus. Talks dealt with the latest political developments in the Arab region and the Horn of Africa. Delegation members spoke about current Eritrean revolution affairs and conveyed to Al-Ahmar the Eritrean people's gratitude for Syria under the leadership of the Ba'th Party and secretary general struggling Comrade Hafiz al-Asad for the support and backing given to the Britrean people. The delegation members condemned the Zionist enemy's plot of annexing the Golan Heights and the designs of the imperialists, the Zionists and their agents in the region against Syria's steadfastness. They expressed Eritrean support for the courageous and bold Syrian steps under President Hafiz al-Asad in confronting imperialist and Zionist plots and in the struggle to regain usurped Arab territories and rights.

Comrade al-Ahmar stressed the need to realize the Eritrean revolution's national unity and reaffirmed the firm and principled Ba'th Party stand on the Eritrean cause in order to enable the Eritrean people to realize their aims of self-determination.

Somali Front Delegation

JN171740 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Excerpt] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received at noon today a delegation of the Somali Democratic Front for National Salvation led by (Said Jama Hussein), the front's deputy leader. The delegation arrived in Syria at the invitation of the Ba'th Party's National Command. They reviewed developments in the region, the dimensions of the imperialist-Zionist onslaught against our Arab region whose last feature was the annexation of the Golan Heights, and the U.S. attempts to paralyze international forums as well as its blunt interference in Syria's internal affairs.

SHARON INTERVIEWED ON ARMS ISSUE, NEWS LEAKS

TA172037 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1935 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon interviewed on the weekly Moqed program by Elimelekh Ram, Ya'aqov Ahime'ir and Ron Ben-Yishay -- live in studio]

[Text] [Question] With your permission, I would like to open with the hottest problem of all, as things appear this evening: the news leaks. In your opinion, should an investigation be made into the accusations by MK Moshe Shahal of the Alignment that the intention to conduct a military operation in Lebanon was leaked, perhaps from the Cabinet session?

[Answer] I heard what MK Shahal had to say today. I cannot conceive of the possibility that the prime minister's deputy and replacement, Simha Ehrilich, did those things, because, after all, Ehrilich knows the truth. Ehrilich was a party to all the sessions and all the deliberations where the issues were discussed. He, as was said, spoke on them and since he was a party to this and knows the truth, it does not appear to me that he said what has been attributed to him.

[Question] By the way, what is the truth -- if it is possible to know -- on the subject of war in Lebanon?

[Answer] When I heard the various speakers who spoke about this matter, I did not know whether to laugh or be sorry. In fact, there was room for both reactions. To laugh: People came along and, as it were, sought a medal for restraint, in that they had supposedly prevented a war -- a war which, however, was not about to erupt. To be sorry: because people, on such a sensitive issue, were endangering Israel's security, endangering the national consensus. Because after all, we do not know. A war initiated by us will not break out -- that is a clear Cabinet decision -- but a war could be imposed on us. To plant those doubts in the nation's heart, in the heart of a mother whose son is serving, in the heart of a father who is anxious for his children on the front -- I regard this as shocking irresponsibility, if not worse than that. I say that to conduct, instead of a war that never was and was never going to be -- at our initiative it was not about to happen -- to conduct a political or internal-personal war: In my opinion we have reached a situation the likes of which I cannot remember in the past.

[Question] What do you recommend should be done to prevent such a situation, to prevent leaks from the Cabinet? Should one use the general security service, interrogate the ministers with a polygraph?

[Answer] The problem is not only one of leaks from the Cabinet, which, undoubtedly, exist. The problem is one of far graver leaks from the Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee. Today the Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee is like a mouse. [as heard] It is impossible to say anything. Matters are made public even before you have emerged from a session of the Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee after reporting to it -- and this occurs on various levels, including, possibly, at times, the military level. I do not think that lie detector tests for ministers should be used in a democratic country. In my view, everyone ought to do his own soulsearching here. Everyone should, in this issue, work things out for himself. This is a moral and security problem of the first degree. I would only, again, appeal to people with a request not to do this. This is causing us indescribable damage. At the same time, my position is that fateful issues should not be solved in 'kitchens' and fateful issues must be brought to the Cabinet, even if there is a risk of leaks. We are living in a democratic country, we never know how situations will develop. We are living in a very unstable area. There could be something which, in the beginning, is small and it develops into something very complicated, very large and I think that, for this purpose matters must be brought to the Cabinet. There is no case here, there is no situation in which this or that minister dominates the Cabinet. Every minister has his task. The Cabinet decides and, on this issue, it seems to me that this Cabinet, more than any in the past, has become a body which makes decisions and I prefer this situation to one in which matters are conducted in inner sanctums.

[Question] Mr Sharon, you are already a member of the second Likud Cabinet and I think that I will not be mistaken if I say that one of the problems of both the Likud Cabinets is the massive number of leaks. Well, what, after all, can be done? Or to put the question in another way: What do you think is the reason for that flood of leaks?

[Answer] I think that, on this issue, what is needed, is that we must appeal to the ministers with a demand that they do not do this and if a minister is discovered doing this -- and I am not proposing using the security services or a lie detector -- in my opinion, the place for this is not in the Cabinet.

[Question] Why are they doing this?

[Answer] This phenomenon has affected all the governments of Israel to this day. In the past we had a government that fell, I think it was in 1955, the government that fell, it was a government headed by Ben-Gurion, as a result of a leak. There are various reasons for this, from a desire to harm someone personally, not understanding the damage this causes, the fear of saying things openly, in the Cabinet, in an attempt to influence, via the media, the making of decisions afterward -- these or other reasons. But, in my view, the Cabinet is not actually the main factor in this field. There is information that is known to people who were in power in the past, and they still have connections with the establishment. In my opinion, they are no less responsible. It is inconceivable that the opposition which has, certainly, people who were [in the establishment] and have information, will use it to undermine a government. It is not undermining the government, it is undermining us all.

[Question] But Mr Sharon, in this instance we are speaking about a leak which, as the opposition claims, came from within the government. We are not speaking of a leak which, as you say, came from the opposition. I would like to ask you one more question on this issue, and I would appreciate a brief reply. Under certain conditions, would you expect the prime minister to ask a minister to resign because of a leak?

[Answer] If it were made clear beyond any doubt that a minister leaked a vital security matter, I would definitely expect the prime minister to ask him to resign.

[Question] I suggest we move to the issue itself. Given the current conditions prevailing in Lebanon, do you think a comprehensive Israeli operation against the terrorists is required?

[Answer] The situation in Lebanon is a very complicated one. The terrorists in Lebanon are building up their strength militarily. They are getting stronger as a political element, even though their relative weight among the Arab population -- the Arab population living in Eretz Yisra'el -- is numerically small. They are certainly not the exclusive representatives. Their buildup has been massive. Today the terrorists in Lebanon have 300 artillery pieces and over 200 rocket-launchers and heavy mortars. Among our viewers there are certainly some who are acquainted with the size of the IDF, and when they compare these figures with what the IDF has, they will undoubtedly be deeply concerned. There is broad and ramified fortification activity. There are acts of terrorism. Since the cease-fire four of Haddad's forces have been killed and a large number have been wounded, there have been over 25 clear violations of the cease-fire or the cessation of hostilities. In Europe nine were killed and 150 were wounded as a result of terrorist activities, and as a result of infiltrations -- operations in the field were -- seven were killed and many dozens were wounded. In other words, there has been very extensive activity. The chief danger lies in the fact that we do not know when things will happen; that is the gravest danger.

[Question] To repeat my question, does the present situation, as you described it, require a military operation by Israel?

[Answer] The current situation requires full preparedness by Israel and its full readiness to stand behind its declaration that it will not allow a resumption of the situation that existed in July 1981 on the northern border. At the same time, it must be borne in mind that the agreement under no circumstances accords legitimization to the terrorists to operate on other borders.

[Question] This is an agreement between ourselves and the terrorists?

[Answer] This is an agreement that was obtained by Philip Habib through mediators between Israel and the terrorists. And this agreement contains the article itself, and I am ready to read it here. This article says: There will be no hostile military activity from Lebanon directed at targets in Israel via land, sea or air. Nowhere does it state that this is related to the northern border alone. It is unfortunate that here a part of the press, and some among the opposition -- including some former officials who should understand security problems, or at least pretend to understand security problems -- have on this subject affiliated themselves with remarks by 'Arafat, with statements by the radio station of the terrorist organizations in Lebanon, which claim that the cease-fire can be violated only if there is an operation conducted from Lebanon. This is a very grave matter, because it actually affords legitimization to operations elsewhere -- which we are totally unwilling to accept.

[Question] Mr Sharon: What has changed today among the terrorists in Lebanon that necessitates such a quick operation? In the past the IDF operated against them, we went in, we left Lebanon, we operated against specific targets, and it all seemed quite successful. What has happened today that requires an operation which is liable to bring about an all-out war?

[Answer] The terrorists' buildup on the one hand and Syria's current state of preparations for war -- and on this subject we have concrete facts which show Syria is preparing for a war. That is, the terrorists who are there under Syrian protection have undergone a major buildup on the one hand, and Syria itself is preparing for war -- and I am not talking here about rumors, I am speaking of verified facts -- at a time....

[Question] Despite the internal situation there?

[Answer] Despite that situation, and if you wish to ask about it, I am ready to talk about that subject, too. But it is reading for war. The terrorists have undergone a major buildup. What does an operation against a specific target mean? Are you referring to the armored raids that were once carried out in the first half of the 1970's? Are you referring to the bombing of a specific target? If you carry out such an operation today, you must take into account from the outset that in reprisal for such a raid, the settlements in the north will be shelled. Therefore, in my view, the situation is extremely sensitive, extremely delicate, which necessitates constant preparedness on the one hand, and maximum caution on the other hand, with a firm determination not to give legitimation to terrorism under any circumstances -- under any circumstances.

[Question] Mr Sharon, was the publicity given to the incursion of the three terrorists in the Mehola area not overexaggerated, creating the impression that Israel was seeking a pretext to launch a war?

[Answer] What in fact are you doing?

[Question] Who is "you"?

[Answer] The media. Let us assume for a moment that we had done nothing, that we had kept the report secret. What would you have said: Why are you hiding information? Why are you concealing that despite the cease-fire there are terrorist acts? This is how you explain Israel's stand? [words indistinct] After all, that is hypocrisy. This government has adopted an approach different from that of previous governments. This government believes that we must make clear that an event necessitating an Israeli information campaign (?must be discussed) in the most open manner. Therefore, I think it is inconceivable that on the one hand you are always [words indistinct]. Why is nothing said? Why are you trying to hide things? On the other hand, when something is done....

[Question] The question is on the proportions of the publicity.

[Answer] As for the proportions, since the cease-fire -- earlier I cited figures about the number of killed and wounded. The recent operation [through Jordan] was not limited; it was an infiltration operation. The terrorists carried with them large quantities of explosives. They had dozens of handgrenades -- 49 handgrenades -- they had explosives which inflict great damage if they go off. There comes a certain moment when you must say: Israel does not accept this, under no circumstances does Israel accept this. Israel has shown a great deal of restraint -- a great deal -- for many months in the face of the incessant violations. In my view we had to do this.

[Question] Are we rather impatient on this issue, if that is the right term?

[Answer] No, no. On this subject I do not like to rely on others, but on this issue I would base myself on what Secretary of State Haig said yesterday, and his remarks were broadcast all day today by the media. He said explicitly that Israel has shown great restraint in the face of recurring provocations since the cease-fire.

[Question] I would like to get back to the media for a moment. The foreign press has reported that you recently met with Bashir al-Jumayyil, a Christain leader, and with other figures there in Lebanon. According to the reports, these meetings took place in the port of Juniyah, in Beirut. Can you confirm this, Mr Sharon?

[Answer] I suggest that we do not take reports published in the press -- neither here or in other countries -- as reports that we must accept completely. Unfortunately, the press, both here and abroad, very often gives inexact information. As for the subject of the Christians in northern Lebanon, we have for the past 7 years been witness to a heroic struggle by a small nation which everyone has abandoned except Israel. By the way, I would say that this is a traditional matter here, and it was in the past. I know that it was reported several years ago that Israel provided humanitarian aid to the Kurds who were fighting the Iraqis with their last ounce of strength. This is something traditional. I think it is a good thing that Israel is sensitive to the fate of a small country or a small nation which everyone has abandoned. The issue in Lebanon is in the first place our issue: namely the problem of the terrorists and their buildup, and this we have discussed. It is my estimation that if a legitimate government were to be formed in Lebanon, I believe that a peace treaty could be signed with it -- and Israel, as is known, is seeking every link in the region with any country with which it can sign a peace treaty.

[Question] Mr Defense Minister: I would like to move to another subject, namely our relations with the United States. Today President Reagan's message to the prime minister was made public, but it contains no assurance that the United States will not sell advanced planes or missiles to Jordan. Did this message to "dear Menahem," as it is phrased, succeed in reassuring you?

[Answer] The message did not reassure me. I would not suggest that we take matters of this sort as they appear on the surface. We must make a distinction here among several matters. A deep basic friendship exists between Israel and the United States, and this friendship exists above and beyond any doubt. At the same time, there are deep differences of opinion on various issues, and one of these differences has to do with arms supplies. I am definitely not reassured, nor will I be even if Israel is compensated.

[Question] Reserve Maj Gen Aharon Yariv said on television that if Jordan is supplied with improved missiles and with F-16 planes, this is liable to lead Israel to launch a preventive war against Jordan. What is your stand on this?

[Answer] The supply of arms to the Arab states in the quantities flowing in today, or which are planned to be sent, will not bring peace to the region. In my view, even if all of us want to avoid a war, we will find ourselves in a war.

We must grasp one thing: Israel has halted the arms race. We are not engaged in an arms buildup; we cannot, we will not make any further effort to compete with the Arabs over arms quantities. In this matter we have reached the end of the road.

[Question] Is Israel not buying any more arms?

[Answer] Israel is definitely buying, but you must bear in mind that arms are being modernized, and we also require a replacement of arms which, I would say, belong to an earlier generation -- they must be replaced with new weapons. But in terms of numbers -- and I am allowing myself to say this here -- in terms of numbers we do not intend in the coming years to add one tank or one plane or one division [ugda].

[Question] Is the problem economic?

[Answer] Israel cannot do any more. Under no circumstances can it be involved in a quantitative race. And, of course, the question arises: How will we be able to hold out? Today the Arab states have some 13,000 tanks. In 1986 they will have nearly 17,000 tanks and nearly 2,500 attack planes. Today they have 250 surface-to-surface missile launchers, which cover Israel's entire territory; in 1986 I estimate they will have about 350 -- the numbers are constantly increasing. Therefore, what we must do, I would say, are three things. One, we will have to devote all our strength to developing quality. We will have to make major efforts to upgrade quality and to widen the quality gap between us and the neighboring countries. The second thing we must do: We will have to maintain what I call safety valves. Let me illustrate: We will not under any circumstances allow the existence or production of nuclear arms in the Arab states. For us, this is a question of survival or nonsurvival. Therefore, we say -- and this is a safety valve -- that under no circumstances will we be able, after the great risks we assumed in the peace treaty with Egypt and in the wake of the buildup in all the Arab states, to permit any change in the territorial status in Sinai that was set in that treaty. That is 150 km of demilitarized territory. We will not be able to permit that; we will have to act at once if this happens, just as we shall have to act immediately if it appears that someone is trying to produce nuclear arms, which is a question of existence. We will not, for example, be able to allow the entry of Iraqi troops into Jordan. It is not possible for us to have thousands of Iraqi tanks enter Jordan in addition to the 1,000 Jordanian tanks that are already there.

[Question] That is a reason for war?

[Answer] I have called it a safety valve. I have explained it with illustrations. There is a third thing we must do, and this is very important. Israel will have to maintain the deterrent awareness that exists in the Arab states. What do I mean by this? It is known today -- we have stated that we will not permit the manufacture of nuclear arms -- that if we see that an Arab state producing nuclear arms and we do not act, we will have lost the factor of deterrent awareness. If we, for example, say we will not permit the terrorists to shell civilian settlements in the north, and these settlements are shelled without our reacting -- we will have lost one of the central elements in our security consciousness. Therefore, Israel must concentrate on development, on maintaining the safety valves and on making a clear determination of what our army is capable of in the face of the Arab armies' buildup, and on constant maintenance of the deterrent awareness, which requires readiness both to make decisions and to implement them.

[Question] Permit me, for a moment, to return to the United States. What is your opinion of the statements by your U.S. counterpart, Caspar Weinberger?

[Answer] In my opinion, the United States has a basically friendly attitude to Israel.

[Question] I am speaking about the statements....

[Answer] Nor do I think that we would do well to try to stretch some sort of a line between basic U.S. positions with regard to Israel and various secretaries in the United States. In my opinion, the basic positions are different. In contrast to this, I think that there certainly is a difference, there certainly is a difference in the personal attitudes of the U.S. President, Secretary of State Haig and Weinberger. I think that this matter is, in my view, grave, this is grave.

[Question] I would like to move on....

[Answer] I also regard it as grave, in my view, if there is criticism of Israel and I think that it is very bad that this criticism is made while visiting an Arab country. It is possible to come to Israel, meet with the prime minister and say: Look, we feel this or that about you, on this or that issue, but to do this in an Arab country, one that is hostile to Israel, I see it as a grave blow.

[Question] I would like to move on to one of our domestic issues, Mr. Sharon, from the field of foreign relations. On the Golan Heights there is what appears today to be a rebellion by the Druze. What would you propose to the Cabinet to do on this matter?

[Answer] In my opinion, if Israeli law had been applied to the Golan Heights earlier -- I mean years earlier -- the future would have been clear to the population. In my view, we would, today, have been enjoying a much quieter situation. That does not mean that they would have loved Israel, that they would have wanted Israeli rule, but certainty of the future and of Israel's intentions would have been of benefit to us. As for the current situation we do not intend to impose on the citizens of the Golan Heights the acceptance of Israeli citizenship. We have no such intention. As a result of this, neither are we recruiting them into the IDF because we do not intend to impose Israeli citizenship on them. Anyone who wants to receive Israeli citizenship, that is another problem. We will certainly be happy about that, but we will not impose it on them. At the same time, the law in the Golan Heights will continue as it exists, with regard to every other inhabitant of the State of Israel.

[Question] Mr Sharon: In your estimation, is there any connection between what is occurring today with the Druze in the Golan Heights and Israel's not reacting to the Syrian missiles in the Al-Biqa' region of Lebanon?

[Answer] I do not think that, on this issue, there is any direct connection. I do not think -- I think that there is more connection with the lack of certainty that prevailed over many years about, I would say, the future of the Golan Heights. Today I think that the application of Israeli law will bring -- together with the required moves -- will lead to a calming of feelings.

[Question] Sir, the unrest began even before the application of the law.

[Answer] Yes, yes, and so....

[Question] The return of the identity cards and all the ...

[Answer] Yes, yes, and so I say that this is not a result, in my view, of the application of the law. It is a result of a situation of uncertainty, of the strengthening of extremist elements. As I said, we will preserve the law in the Golan Heights. Even a resident who is not a citizen must obey the law and we will insist on this.

[Question] Mr Sharon: In fact, I do not understand. If Israeli law applies to the Golan Heights, why are you dealing with the Druze in the Golan Heights and why is Minister Burg not dealing with them?

[Answer] I am grateful to you for asking that question. I wanted to say to you: Gentlemen, ask Minister Burg, invite Minister Burg....

[Question] So why, nevertheless, are you dealing with them?

[Answer] I am not dealing with the issue.

[Question] Have you finished dealing with it?

[Answer] That is an issue that is being dealt with by the Ministry of the Interior, the police, the Ministry of Education, first of all -- by all the ministries.

[Question] It seems to me that you took measures, defense measures for times of emergency in that context....

[Answer] Yes, yes, but that was simply by virtue of the fact that, by virtue of the fact that I am the one who signs those orders, but....

[Question] For times of emergency?

[Question] At one time you conducted a new and liberal policy in Judaea and Samaria and now we hear that two officials from the civilian administration have been beaten up at Bi'r Zayt University; today two IDF soldiers were wounded and Bi'r Zayt University has been closed for 4 months. Are these the results of the new policy?

[Answer] No, under no circumstances, no. In my opinion, the decision to change the policy in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza district was a correct one. As a result of the separation of powers, we have had very great achievements in foiling terrorist actions, in the approach and so on; we have done some things that have been made public and some that have not yet been publicized but will be in due course. At the same time, we have succeeded in bringing the civilian administration into existence. Perhaps the most important phenomenon is that there are today more and more people every day in Judaea and Samaria who say: We do not regard the terrorist organizations as our sole representatives. They are prepared to be equipped with weapons and are being equipped with weapons for their defense. The numbers are on the increase. I am not saying they love Israel. I am not saying they want our rule there. Under no circumstances. Nor do we look for people of that sort. We are not looking for inhabitants who will be Zionists. They are not like that, but the fact that they are prepared to openly stand up against the PLO on this issue certainly sows hope that it will be possible to held a dialogue and I believe that we will succeed this.

As for the incident in Bi'r Zayt, the university will be closed for 2 months. We had to take this measure. I would say this incident is, perhaps, one of the gravest. People came on a coordinated visit to the director of the university. They met him in his office. **Outside**, students gathered with the intention of harming the visitors. Then, the director of the university took them out, brought them into the heart of the rioting crowd. He abandoned them and returned to his office. That seemed to me to be going too far, especially in the east, where this has a special significance.

[Question] Mr Sharon, would you recommend that the government apply Israeli law and justice to all or part of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip?

[Answer] We have not discussed that issue. This is another example of the opposition creating a monster.

[Question] The question has been asked by a television interviewer, it is not being asked by the opposition.

[Answer] But there is the interviewer who asks and there is the interviewee who replies, so I am replying. And so I say that the issue has not been discussed. Our position on that issue has been known ever since the Camp David agreements. These things are clear and the government has not made any decision on the issue.

[Question] What would you recommend?

[Answer] I would not, today, recommend doing anything on that issue beyond what we agreed in the Camp David agreements.

[Question] And, finally, Mr Defense Minister, I would like to ask you a question on domestic party politics. Do you feel that there is organizing by Herut ministers in the government -- for example, by Aridor, Shamir, Levi -- to block your advance to the throne of the premiership?

[Answer] I am busy with an office that demands most of my time. I spend many hours on it. It is a task whose burden is very heavy, it is very great, it demands meetings with young soldiers and with senior commanders and visits to border settlements. It is a post which provides full occupation for many hours. I am only occupied with that subject.

[Question] And ambition for the premiership certainly exists in you?

[Answer] We have a prime minister who functions well. We have a government which acts and, in my view, is far more cohesive than many governments we have had in the past, perhaps more than all the governments of the past. We have a government that is led by a prime minister who has succeeded, I would say, in creating several things, I say again, above and beyond the achievements of peace, beyond the fantastic settlement activity in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza and in the Golan Heights and in Galilee, beyond other achievements. Today we have a government which appears credible; what it says, it does; what is promises and declares, it does. We once warned, once, a long time before the action with the Iraqi reactor; we carried it out. In my opinion, this is a government that is led in the best possible way. There is a prime minister. I hope that the prime minister will lead the Likud in the coming elections, too.

[Question] Minister Sharon, I have another question, a short one, to my regret. On your initiative, you sought cuts to the budget and there are those who claim that those cuts are harming Israel's security. Why did you do this? Can you explain to us, in brief?

[Answer] I made the cuts, as you said, on my own initiative. I demanded that the cuts be made. For years I have claimed that more security can be obtained for less money. In my opinion, this country has many serious problems. Security is also education, security is also health. I, as the person who plans, let us say, the airplane of the 1990's, I have to also think who will sit in that airplane. A boy must sit in that airplane who has passed through the best kindergarten, the best school, who lives in the healthiest society, so, in my opinion, there is a very serious complex of issues here, and under no circumstances can we disregard it. All these things are areas of security and I would suggest that other ministries should also take what we have done as an example. We decided on a clear 5-year program, at my initiative, which meets the budget -- and I want to guarantee, I promise, better security for less money.

[Announcer] We certainly join in that hope of yours and perhaps it will be fulfilled. I thank you for coming to the Moqed studio. I also thank my colleagues, Elimelekh Ram and Ron Ben-Yishay. Good night to the viewers in their homes.

ARENS, HAIG DISCUSS ARMS TO JORDAN ISSUE

TA181738 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1710 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Report within the "Evening Newsreel" by Washington correspondent Shalom Qital -- recorded]

[Text] Unlike many other ambassadors entering their posts, Moshe Arens cannot make do with mere polite talk with senior U.S. administration officials whom he is meeting with officially. When he conferred with U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig today, both men discussed several pressing issues for almost 1 hour, first and foremost the possibility that the United States may sell weapons to Jordan as well as other topics such as the situation in Lebanon, the peace process and Israeli-U.S. relations. Arens attends to his first duties in Washington without saying too much in public. Today, too, upon emerging from Alexander Haig's office, Arens disappointed the dozens of journalists who were eagerly awaiting him.

[Arens -- in English] I am not going to make any long statements. We had a good, long talk with the secretary of state and most of it was directed at the dangers that we in Israel perceive that stem from the supply of offense weaponry to Middle Eastern countries. But I am going to have a meeting with the secretary of defense tomorrow and I guess we will be going over some of the same grounds. So, I think I'd rather not say any more at this time.

[Qital translates the above and continues] A short time ago, authoritative sources told us that in the wake of the Arens-Haig meeting it was learned that the United States indeed might supply weapons to Jordan. This is the clear impression that the Israeli participants in the meeting received. A Jordanian request for the supply of arms has not yet been received. From the remarks made by Secretary of State Alexander Haig to incoming Ambassador Moshe Arens, however, it is clear that the United States is trying to convince Israel that the United States must maintain strong and good relations with countries the United States considers moderate, countries that may contribute to the stability in the Middle East and this also includes the supply of arms.

In contrast, Moshe Arens told Alexander Haig that the additional supply of weapons to Arab countries jeopardizes stability in the region. The ability to maintain Israel's qualitative advantage -- which the United States has pledged to maintain time and again -- is shrinking because when the most sophisticated weapons are supplied to Arab countries, what else can be supplied to Israel so that it may maintain its qualitative advantage to which the United States has committed itself, Moshe Arens said. A strong and stable Israel is the key to the success of the United States in the region, Arens told Alexander Haig. For instance, the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt which strengthened the U.S. status in the area, was the consequence of a strong Israel, of close relations between the United States and Israel. If the United States wants to strengthen its status in countries such as Jordan and Saudi Arabia, it may do so only if it has close relations with Israel enabling it to influence Israel as opposed to having strained relations.

Alexander Haig told incoming Ambassador Arens that he is the fourth Israeli ambassador with whom he would have the honor to work and that he hoped they would have good relations. Haig went on to say that Arens was entering his post at a sensitive period when various events were clouding [me'ibim] relations between the two countries. He expresses his hope however, that these events will end well.

GOVERNMENT TO CAMPAIGN TO STOP JORDAN ARMS SALE

TA190834 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Feb 82 p 1

[Report by 'Uzi Benziman]

[Text] In Jerusalem it is generally believed that there is no real dispute between U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger and Secretary of State Alexander Haig about the sales of F-16's and mobile Hawk missiles to Jordan.

Sources in Jerusalem think the reports published in the United States, according to which Weinberger's statements were based solely on his personal views, do not reflect the reality and they may have been aimed at lulling Israel's alertness. As more reports reach Jerusalem about the mood prevailing in the top ranks of the U.S. administration, the signs are increasing that there is understanding in principle between the two secretaries over this problem.

Informed sources explained last night that, after the talk between Ambassador Moshe Arens and Secretary Haig, Israel will not stop its fight against the sale of advanced military equipment to Jordan. People in Jerusalem understand that this is a prolonged campaign. There is satisfaction in the government over Israel's rapid and unambiguous reaction after Weinberger's visit to Jordan which produced results (the letter from President Reagan to Prime Minister Begin and the issuing of a denial by the secretary of defense); but there is no illusion that among very influential circles in Washington there is a noticeable and serious trend toward selling aircraft and missiles to Jordan, although no decision has yet been made on the matter.

DAVAR SEES REDIRECTION OF U.S. MIDEAST POLICY

TA171547 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 17 Feb 82 p 7

[Commentary by "United States correspondent" Yosef Pri'el: "'Redirection' a la Weinberger"]

[Text] It is easy to portray U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger's plans and statements regarding the U.S. policy in the Middle East as part of a power struggle within the administration, between Secretary Weinberger and Secretary of State Alexander Haig. The new crisis, however, emerging between Israel and the United States is a continuation of the erosion in Israel's status in the United States, a process that Israel refuses to realize how deep and serious it is.

According to last year's experience, the new statements must largely worry Israel. To date, Weinberger was the one who ultimately set the tone of the administration's decisions regarding the Middle East. Haig was forced to swallow, cover things up and later rush to turn, yet another time, "a new leaf" in relations with Israel. After each new leaf, however, a further deterioration in the relations between both countries followed.

Now, at the end of 1 year in power, there is no longer any doubt that President Reagan's ear is more sympathetic toward his old friend Weinberger. The secretary of defense steered the AWACS deal with Saudi Arabia, the punishment of Israel in the wake of the bombings in Baghdad and Beirut and the cancellation of the strategic memorandum of understanding after the annexation of the Golan Heights. The secretary of defense is the man who is currently formulating -- under Haig's nose -- what has been termed by a "senior official in Weinberger's entourage" as the "redirection of U.S. military policy in the Middle East from an emphasis on ties with Israel to military ties with the Arabs."

That "official" said the United States could no longer be Israel's "hostage" and that it had to see to its own interests; namely, to establish close relations with Arab countries. As early as the first days of the current administration it was clear that Weinberger understands the Arab issue more than others and that he is more aware of the smell of Arab money than others. As president of the Bechtel Corporation, which conducted many projects in Saudi Arabia, Weinberger felt closer to the issue than his colleagues. According to people who have met him, Weinberger is a shrewd and determined businessman who strives for his goals and succeeds in reaching them.

The U.S. secretary of defense's visit to the Middle East took place during a low period in relations between the United States and the Arabs in general, and the Saudis in particular. Because of its moderate position and its vital role as far as the United States is concerned, the administration went to great lengths to approve the AWACS deal with Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia, however, has in the last few months begun turning a cold shoulder to the United States due to its special relations with Israel and it has been signaling to Washington that it is eyeing the Russians, that is, the enemy that the AWACS were supposed to deter. Moreover, Saudi Arabia is even resuming diplomatic relations with the devil, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

On the eve of his departure to the Middle East, Weinberger conferred with Haig. Referring to that meeting, Haig said that they had discussed "the foreign policy aspects in Weinberger's tour." When he was asked whether his colleague had abided by the decisions, Haig replied: "It was very close to the decisions we made." Referring to the same meeting, Weinberger said: "I did not discuss arms sales with Haig; it is within the authority of the secretary of defense to determine the military needs of other countries. The State Department conducts negotiations with the foreign country and submits the sale to Congress."

Trying to interpret these remarks, one reaches the conclusion that the current move has been coordinated with and accepted by the administration. Only a few statements by Weinberger and his senior official, mainly regarding Israel, have deviated from this agreed upon stand. What matters to us, however, is the policy that is implemented and this policy is far stronger than the soothing clarifications accompanying it.

At the beginning of this week, the Pentagon hastened to explain to the U.S. public that this was actually not an innovation but merely the expansion and establishment of a policy begun in 1979, in the days of the Carter administration. He who had not read the writing on the wall to date had been wrong, Pentagon officials said. He who has been following events, however, had no reason to be surprised.

After the "students" took over the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, the Pentagon started examining its ability to intervene in a serious crisis in the Middle East and particularly its ability to react to a Soviet raid on the oilfields in the Persian Gulf. The first step was to establish the Rapid Deployment Force [RDF], in the final days of the previous administration. When President Reagan entered the White House he had to complete the job of establishing and arming this force and, in particular, locating bases and refueling, landing and naval facilities in friendly countries in the region. Weinberger's trip to Saudi Arabia, Oman and Jordan as well as Haig's visit to Morocco last week were key stages in this project.

In Riyadh, the secretary of defense received an official Saudi proposal to establish a joint military committee with the United States. Weinberger almost struck a similar agreement with the Omani leader, Sultan Qabus, and the talks ended by expressing understanding of the security needs of both countries. In Jordan, Weinberger managed to convince King Husayn that the Reagan administration wants and can help him remain within the West's lap rather than depend on the supply of military equipment and weapons from the Soviet Union. At the same time, Haig reached an agreement with Morocco's King Hassan II on the establishment of a joint military committee between the two countries and made progress toward receiving permission for RDF planes to land for refueling on their way to the Middle East in times of crises.

Although the U.S. administration tries to paint a picture in which the security of the Arab countries is threatened by many dangers fostered by their neighbors (Jordan and Syria) and mainly the Soviet Union, Weinberger's hosts emphasized in all the capitals he visited, both in private talks and in interviews with U.S. correspondents, that the chief enemy of the Arabs is Israel.

As far as Israel is concerned, this unified stand is perhaps more worrisome than the possible stationing of sophisticated offensive weapons in Jordan. Upon his return to Washington, Secretary of Defense Weinberger stated that he would meet President Reagan, Secretary of State Haig and National Security Adviser Clark. Weinberger said: "I will recommend to them the selling of mobile batteries of Hawk missiles and fighter planes to Jordan. We will take into account the military needs of Jordan and the political price of a struggle on this issue with Congress and the Israeli lobby."

When asked whether these weapons would not constitute a direct threat to Israel's security, Weinberger replied: "I do not feel that it is more than a contribution to the strengthening of a good friend."

It is believed in Washington that if Weinberger succeeds in convincing President Reagan of the validity of this deal, the administration will succeed in getting it passed by Congress. The key, however, lies with the debate that will evolve in the highest levels of the administration. Will Reagan agree to something he did not agree to 3 months ago when King Husayn came to ask for these weapons in person? It is hard to tell. It seems, however, that this time more than in the past this decision will be decisively influenced by the extent of Israel's opposition and moves in the next few weeks.

HA'ARETZ CRITICIZES BEGIN APPROACH TO U.S.

TA181155 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Feb 82 p 7

[Commentary by Mati Golan: "The Limitations of Standing Tall"]

[Text] It was quite sad to listen to the speech by Prime Minister Menahem Begin, who opened the Knesset political debate on the U.S. intention to supply sophisticated weapons to Jordan. It was impossible not to dwell on the difference between that speech and his earlier attitude to the friendly superpower, only a few weeks ago. Through the Cabinet secretary he then lashed the United States with the whip of his tongue for the suspension of the strategic agreement after the Golan Heights Law. We are not vassals, we are not a banana republic. We are a sovereign state with the right to do anything we wish.

I did not then feel that the prime minister was making my Israeli back straighter or deepening my Jewish pride. I had the disturbing feeling of hearing words without anything behind them -- a rhetorical, irrelevant attack. This was because the United States has not, in fact, ever doubted Israel's sovereignty. Its claim was that friends should consult each other and coordinate positions before taking action.

The prime minister's reply to this claim was that we would not consult with the United States because he knew in advance that its position would be negative. On this fact Begin was undoubtedly right. The problem is that such a justification cannot remain unilateral for any length of time.

Now along comes U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger who proposes that the United States supply Jordan with F-16's and Hawk missiles. From the practical viewpoint, there is no doubt that the negative Israeli reaction is obvious. If Weinberger's proposal gains an attentive ear from President Reagan, it will be a grave blow to Israel's security. Certainly every effort should be made to foil this possibility.

In the prime minister's speech to the Knesset there was no longer any trace of vassals or a banana republic. The rhetorical and artificial Jewish pride was replaced by a deep dread. The leader of the sovereign and upright state of Israel is stooping a little and calling for [the United States] to refrain from an act likely to increase tension in the area.

The effectiveness of this cry and the diplomatic efforts accompanying it were severely and unnecessarily harmed even before they began because, in terms of the tactics used by the prime minister himself, Weinberger's initative has nothing in it that is not also present in the Golan Heights initiative. In both cases there is a denial by one nation of the vital interests of the other.

The U.S. opposition to the Golan Heights Law was in no way capricious. It was strongly linked to that country's political thinking, that it should divide its eggs among different baskets in the Middle East, not putting them all in Israel's basket.

We can argue with that type of logic, but it is impossible to negate the U.S. right to adopt it and act accordingly.

This right comes from the fact that the United States is no less sovereign than Israel. Sovereignty, however, does not mean shutting off the views of friends and ignoring their needs and problems. Because of this, Israel can ask -- even demand -- that the political moves of a friendly nation should not harm it.

This norm of behavior among friends loses its force when one of the two countries does not act accordingly. The moment Israel says that preconsultation and consideration of U.S. interests means vassalage and a banana republic, it is cutting the ground from under the reciprocity which is the basis of this type of relationship.

It is possible, then, to say that the United States paid Israel back in the same coinage that Begin himself created. This, however, would also not be precise. Israel's coinage was harder. Begin confronted the United States with the fact of the Golan Heights Law. The supply of the sophisticated weapons to Jordan is still only a possibility. The United States was stopped from expressing any opinion about the Golan Heights Law. Israel has the possibility of asking, arguing, demanding. From this viewpoint, the United States has been more generous than Israel.

The United States was not the only one that was stopped from holding previous consultations and expressing views. The Israeli opposition had a similar fate. On this matter, too, Begin is standing tall. Countless times he explained that the nation had chosen him to conduct the affairs of the state and so he does not have to hold preconsultations with the opposition about his moves.

That same Begin, however, does not hesitate to bring the opposition in on his secrets when those moves lead to a dangerous deadlock. Then he does summon Shim'on Peres, asking him to form a united front to repel the danger: the danger that he himself created, completely ignoring the opposition's existence. It is difficult to advise the opposition how to act in such cases. It is very tempting to tell the prime minister to eat what he cooked. The trouble is that in the end we will all have to eat it.

It should be stressed that this does not mean that in every matter and case Israel must determine its moves with the agreement of the United States, or even in coordination with it. Situations could be created in which the Government of Israel would be duty-bound to act without any consultation with the United States and even against U.S. views. The bombing of the nuclear reactor in Iraq is a good example of such a case. When there is a danger of this type, the views of others have no relevance.

The Golan Heights Law, however, cannot be put in this category, from any aspect. In the best case, it did not remove any threat to which Israel was exposed. In the worst case -- the case that apparently applies -- it increased tension, not only with the Syrians, but also with the United States and the rest of the world.

It is not a pleasant sight to see the prime minister stooped over. But if he wants to avoid this, he must take care not to stand unnecessarily tall. The most correct situation, from both the physical and spiritual aspects, is one of standing normally. Not too tall and not too stooped.

ALL PARTIES MUST ABIDE BY CEASE-FIRE IN LEBANON

JN171459 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab world 1125 GMT 17 Feb 82

["Observation" by Salim 'Anbari]

[Text] Calm in southern Lebanon is vital to the Middle East and to the United States, of course, but on condition that it is not at the expense of any party. Israel, which approved the cease-fire in this region several months ago, did so after receiving assurances that the cease-fire would be honored by the other parties. Today, however, Israel doubts very much that the other parties are honoring the cease-fire agreement.

Local papers in Israel today published reports blaming the government and accusing it of being shortsighted in quickly signing the cease-fire agreement at the time. Since it is impossible to turn the clock backward, since the situation prevailing in the region today is different from the one that existed before the agreement and due to the agreement itself, Israel will not cancel it even in view of the terrorists' recurrent violations of it, their procurement of Soviet weapons or other reasons contrary to the letter and spirit of this agreement.

U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig, who is working hard to maintain the region's calm, which he rightly considers an essential condition for any peace initiative in the future, made it a point to announce in his statements yesterday that the supply of Soviet weapons to the terrorists in southern Lebanon and the crossing of these terrorists into Israel via Jordan are legitimate grounds for Israel's concern. Although the U.S. secretary avoided the use of the expression "violation of the cease-fire agreemtnt" in his statements, he did not fail to stress that the danger of a renewal of hostilities in southern Lebanon exists. The secretary then expressed the hope that Israel would continue to exercise self-restraint in the coming days, weeks and months.

It is the duty of every government to guarantee the security of its citizens. This is above any other consideration. If the policy of self-restraint will guarantee the security of Israeli citizens, then the Israeli Government will respond to Haig's appeal. Otherwise, it will not. This point is clear to both Haig and the other parties connected with the cease-fire in southern Lebanon. The best proof of this was what Haig said toward the end of his statements, that Israel's self-restraint is not limitless and that everything depends on the behavior of the PLO and the conditions in Lebanon, because the other sides also have to stand by their commitments, not just Israel.

We hope that the U.S. secretary's statements will meet with a positive response everywhere, not in Israel alone.

LABOR OPPOSES ANNEXATION OF JUDAEA, SAMARIA, GAZA

TA181754 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] The Labor Party will oppose any proposal to apply Israeli law in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza district. The Labor Party bureau approved the proposal submitted by Chairman Shim'on Peres stipulating that the annexation of the territories and its 1.2 million inhabitants might result in a binational state.

GOLAN DRUZE STRIKE CONTINUES INTO FIFTH DAY

TA181130 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Excerpt] The Druze on the Golan Heights who are on strike say they will continue their struggle until the government accedes to their request by not applying Israeli law to them. Today, too, as on the previous 4 days, all the schools and businesses on the Golan Heights are on strike and the workers have stayed home. From the Golan, here is our correspondent, Yo'el Dar:

[Begin recording] [Dar] The strike has not yet begun to leave its mark on the residents -- neither from the economic point of view nor from that of morale. The representatives of the population admit, with a modicum of caution, that the latest measures taken against them are painful, but are not enough to break their strength of will. The reference is to the cancellation of students' crossings to Syria, the dismissals of workers and the recruitment of Arab workers to replace them. [end recording]

More Strikers Fired

TA190558 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] Institutions, employers and kibbutzim in the upper Galilee and the Hula Valley have sent dismissal notices to Druze workers employed by them and have announced the cancellation of contracts with Druze contractors if they do not appear for work by the day after tomorrow. The contractors have also been warned that they will be debited for the payment of compensation for having broken signed building contracts. Our correspondent, Yo'el Dar, points out that the strike by the Druze in the Golan Heights is now in its 6th day.

SHARON STOPS DEMOLITION OF RAFAH HOUSES

TA190925 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 19 Feb 82 p 1

[Report by Dani Tzidqoni]

[Text] Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon yesterday ordered the commander of the southern command, Hayim Erez, not to demolish buildings in Rafah for the purpose of amending the border and not, in the meantime, to compensate the Palestinian families from the Canada camp who are to remain in Egyptian territory.

The minister and the commander of the southern command, together with Deputy Chief of Staff Maj Gen Moshe Levi, coordinator of activities in the territories Rehavya Vardi, head of the civilian administration Yosef Lunz and others, yesterday toured the international border demarcation lines in the region. They studied first hand the problems involved in moving the security fence in order to prevent terrorist infiltration from Sinai.

Minister Sharon said that at this stage the situation in the town should be left unchanged in the hope that the Egyptians will change their positions and propose a solution that will not harm the local population. It has been learned that the army was supposed to have begun moving the border fence on Monday.

In the agricultural areas of Rafah, the construction of a barbed wire fence -- part of the security fence -- has already begun. The military governor of the town informed the owners of the agricultural plots that anyone trying to force their way through the fence or jump over it can expect a fine of 1,500 shekels.

Inhabitants of the Canada quarters said they were visited the day before yesterday by representatives of the civilian administration in order to clarify the evacuation possibilities from the quarter. There are 517 Palestinian refugee families living there, evacuated at the beginning of the 1970's from the refugee camps. Representatives of the administration told members of the quarter's committee that the inhabitants would receive 200 meters of land per family in nearby (Tal as-Sultan), which is on the Israeli side of the border, where they will be able to build their homes. The administration will assess the value of their homes and they will receive compensation for them. Members of the neighborhood announced that they would only reply to the proposal after they hear how much compensation is being offered.

Inhabitants of the Gaza Strip and Rafah -- quoting the Egyptian foreign minister, who had said that Israel, which had moved the refugees to the Canada quarter, was responsible for their fate -- explain that they are not appealing to Egypt. There are roughly another 300 families in Rafah whose homes may be demolished for the purpose of establishing the security fence. Israel has made eight proposals to Egypt for decreasing the hardship to the inhabitants, but all of them were rejected.

POLL SHOWS MAJORITY OPPOSE AUTONOMY CONCESSIONS

TA190955 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 19 Feb 82 p 1

[Text] Most of the public (69 percent) is opposed to concessions while only a minority of 24 percent favor concessions on Israel's part to promote the autonomy negotiations. About one-third of the public believes that an agreement on autonomy should be reached before the evacuation of the Sinai.

These are the findings of a public opinion poll commissioned by the YEDI'OT AHARONOT editorial board at the beginning of February. The poll was conducted by the "Dahaf" Research Institute, directed by Dr Mina Tzemah, and involved a representative sample of 1,235 adult Jews -- excluding the kibbutzim.

The question posed was: "There are those who claim that if we do not reach an agreement on autonomy before the Sinai evacuation on 26 April, problems will emerge with Egypt and the United States and, thus, it is necessary to accelerate the negotiations. Others believe that there is no need to rush, and there are also people who believe that there is no need at all to reach an agreement on this matter. What is your opinion?"

The results were (in percentages): reaching an agreement before the evacuation -- 37 percent; reaching an agreement without rushing -- 41 percent; no need for reaching an agreement -- 17 percent; no opinion -- 5 percent.

Another question posed was: "Should Israel agree to concessions (such as giving voting rights to the inhabitants of east Jerusalem, increasing the number of members in the Autonomy Council and so on) in order to reach an agreement soon?"

These were the answers (in percentages): for concessions -- 24 percent; against concessions -- 69 percent; no opinion -- 7 percent.

ALGERIA

TRADE PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH IRAN DELEGATION

LD181826 Tehran IRNA in English 1658 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Algiers, 18 Feb (IRNA) -- Draft protocol of trade exchange was signed on Wednesday between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Algeria by the foreign ministers of the two countries. The protocol included cooperation in the field of oil, exchange of technical experts, positions of the two countries in OPEC. The draft of cancellation of visa between Iran and Algeria was prepared and would be signed after some studies.

LIBYA

OIL SECRETARY MEETS WITH GHANA COUNCIL MEMBER

LD182248 Tripoli JANA in English 1816 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Tripoli, 18 Feb (JANA) -- The oil secretary this afternoon met here with Mr Chris Bukari Atim, member of the Ghanian Provisional National Defence Council, and his accompanying delegation. They discussed bilateral relations and ways of developing cooperation, particularly in the oil sphere.

Rawlings Letter Delivered

LD182212 Tripoli JANA in English 1859 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Tripoli, 18 Feb (JANA) -- The revolution's leader today received Mr Chris Bukari Atim, member of the Provisional National Defence Council [PNDC] of the Republic of Ghana, who handed the leader a letter from Flt Lt Jerry Rawlings, president of the PNDC.

In his letter, Flt Lt Rawlings [words indistinct] strong revolutionary relations between the Libyan Arab and Ghanian peoples and their development in the interests of the peoples and of Africa. He added: "We in Ghana regard you as an example to be emulated in being brave and strong in facing Africa's (?enemies). We will stand together [words indistinct] our relations in various [word indistinct] because the consolidation of our relations would give Africa a solid force. The Provisional National Defence Council in Ghana desires the development of relations between the Ghanian and Libyan peoples and looks forward to carrying out this work at the Arab and African (?levels).

Flt Lt Rawlings stressed in his letter to the leader: "World history affirms to the peoples that the road to freedom is the road of change through revolutionary regimes. The 31st December 1981 revolution in Ghana and the Great 1st September Revolution are ready to work together to confront imperialism and racism."

HAIG STATEMENTS REVEAL 'DASTARDLY' U.S. POLICY

LD181748 Tripoli JANA in English 0907 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Tripoli, 18 Feb (JANA) -- General Alexander Haig, U.S. secretary of state, revealed the dastardly policy being perpetrated by the Reagan administration against the jamahiriyah. In a press conference held in Morocco, he spoke in a hostile, vengeful and rancorous manner against the jamahiriyah and expressed annoyance at its increasingly important role in siding with people struggling to gain their liberty.

General Haig claimed that the jamahiriyah incites trouble and turmoil and its activities to be a cause for concern, accused Libya of terrorism and his official and private statements deliberately incriminated Libya in masterminding incidents actually fabricated by the American administration in an attempt to conceal the U.S. terrorist role in the region. [sentence as received]

Haig is well aware that Libya knows full well the nature of the U.S. policy which it attempts to expose. Thus, it is possible to forgive this tyrant if he charts the U.S. policy in a way which guarantees its successful implementation whether directly or through lackey surrogates and infidel tyrants.

By refuting U.S. allegations, the jamahiriyah, the subject [words indistinct] in this context and the country in question, is considered by various observers as a strategic obstacle to U.S. designs, whether in the Arab region, Africa or the Caribbean region.

In the meantime, the jamahiriyah is gaining a particular importance in confronting these designs and acts as a formidable obstacle against U.S. designs aimed at imposing hegemony and subjugation of people. Thus, the reasons behind Haig's virulent attack on the jamahiriyah becomes obviously clear to the world at large.

JANA REPORTS 'ESCALATING' SOMALI ARMY MUTINY

LD181740 Tripoli JANA in English 0850 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Mogadishu, 18 Feb (JANA) -- The ruling regime in Somalia sent military reinforcements to the northern province where the mutiny inside the army barracks is escalating. News says that tens of soldiers were reported killed or injured as a result of the clashes which took place inside these barracks between pro- and anti-regime forces.

The sources added that most of the 8th Army has turned against the regime following the execution of 84 military personnel. The town of Boho Tella came under the control of the Democratic Salvation Front. An urgent message from Mogadishu said that the barracks of Jabili, Horaya Coul and Arabi have been seized by the rebel forces.

ALGERIAN, MALAGASY DELEGATIONS ARRIVE 18 FEB

LD182356 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1930 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Tripoli, 18 Feb (JANA) -- Kamal Abu Shamah, member of the Algerian National Party Central Committee, arrived today to attend meetings of the preparatory committee of the world seminar on combating Zionism and imperialism which will be held in Tripoli.

Malagasy Foreign Minister Richard Christian Remi, leading a delegation, also arrived in Tripoli today.

MOROCCO

BOUCETTA COMMENTS ON NAIROBI OAU MEETING

PM170957 Casablanca LE MATIN in French 14 Feb 82 pp 1, 4

[MAP report]

[Text] Rabat, 14 Feb -- Minister of State for Foreign Affairs M'hamed Boucetta granted an interview to Moroccan radio and television, in which he discussed the results of the third Nairobi meeting and the confusion caused shortly before the committee meeting at summit level, the resolutions adopted and the provisions drawn up by the implementation committee on the organization of the referendum.

With regard to the assessment of the results of the third Nairobi meeting in the light of the first and second Nairobi meetings, Boucetta said the aim of the third Nairobi meeting was to adopt the means of implementing the decisions made at the second Nairobi summit, at which his majesty the king called for the organization of a monitored referendum in the Saharan provinces. The committee meeting (second Nairobi meeting) which took place toward the end of August had the aim of determining the stages to be followed in this affair by settling the fundamental questions adopted at the first and second Nairobi meetings, but it so happened, Boucetta added, that during the last meeting Morocco's adversaries tried to call into question the decisions made during the previous meetings. To be more explicit, he continued, it was finally agreed in August and in the presence of His Majesty King Hassan II that the royal armed forces should remain in the same region during the course of the referendum. It was also agreed, the minister of state for foreign affairs stated, that the Moroccan administration will remain in the region and even play a major role in deciding on the measures to be taken for the organization of the referendum and that it is unthinkable that Morocco should one day recognize "the Polisario," which, Boucetta stressed, has no legal existence enabling it to be a valid interlocutor for Morocco.

The third Nairobi meeting, Boucetta added, was aimed at calling into question all these points. Hence, it proved necessary for Morocco to clarify matters as it has always done. Regarding the confusion created shortly before the committee meeting at summit level, the minister of state said the general secretariat drafted a report which is a setback for the points mentioned previously. The important thing for Morocco's adversaries is to make the "Polisario" the only interlocutor and the only interested party.

During the preparatory foreign ministers' meeting, he explained, some ministers advocating that viewpoint went so far as to inform the press of draft resolutions which state that Morocco and the "Polisario" are the only parties involved. But, Boucetta added, we strove to explain our position and reaffirm the position adopted by His Majesty King Hassan II regarding the conditions fundamental to Morocco's view and which it cannot abandon. The heads of state realized that our position was a strong one both ethically and on the level of international law.

The minister of state for foreign affairs stressed that the positions taken, for instance, by Presidents Sekou Toure and Shagari and by the Sudanese vice president were decisive in bringing the organization back onto the straight and narrow, rejecting everything published by the general secretariat and declaring that parties other than Morocco and the "Polisario" are involved.

Regarding the resolutions adopted during the last meeting, especially the existence of forces to prevent any infiltration, Boucetta indicated that principle was accepted during previous meetings, knowing there must be a cease-fire if a referendum is to be possible. The Africans, the minister of state added, made that decision at least twice before this meeting. They did so once in Freetown, when it was stated that there should be an immediate cease-fire. At another meeting, it was announced that a cease-fire should be introduced toward the end of last year (31 December 1981). But all that, Boucetta explained, remained a dead letter.

Finally it was agreed that, to ensure that the cease-fire was respected, a force described as "military monitoring" should be deployed along the borders between Morocco and Algeria and between Morocco and Mauritania. That is of great interest to us, Boucetta added, because we still maintain we are not attacking anybody -- we are being attacked. To prevent any infiltration, he explained, we see no objection to that military monitoring force being deployed along the borders separating Morocco and Algeria and Morocco and Mauritania.

During the Nairobi meeting, which debated the question of the parties involved at length -- for Algeria thinks it isn't a party to the conflict -- it was necessary, Boucetta said, to explain what a party is.

In the eyes of international law, Boucetta said, a party is the territory from which a force, whatever its nature, attacks another territory. Everybody knows, he explained, that the mercenaries are using Algerian territory as a starting point for attacking Moroccan territory and then take refuge on Algerian territory. In addition to that, the minister of state explained, it is no secret to anybody that more than 100 Algerian soldiers have already been taken prisoner of war by Morocco and are visited by delegations sent by international bodies like the Red Cross. Those prisoners, the minister of state also said, receive mail from their families and all belong without exception to regular Algerian army units.

With regard to the interim administration, Boucetta recalled that at the first and second Nairobi meetings it was decided to set up an interim administration to organize the referendum but it was also decided that the Moroccan administration would be maintained throughout the region. At the third Nairobi meeting, that decision was maintained and reaffirmed, the minister of state added, explaining that to ensure Moroccan sovereignty is not undermined, the existing Moroccan administration will continue to control vital sectors (education, communications, health care, commerce...) and no change will be made in Moroccan regulations. Boucetta explained that the interim administration will deal with measures relating to the organization of the referendum to ensure that it takes place freely and that it is illogical to reject that, adding that the Moroccan administration will be at the disposal of the interim administration, which cannot replace it.

In reply to a question on the possibility of holding other meetings on this issue, the minister of state explained that all measures have now been decided "if Morocco's adversaries really want a referendum to be held." We declare to national and international public opinion that, through this referendum, we want to prove that the Saharan Moroccans reiterate their attachment to the Alawite throne and to their Moroccan nature. But if the others don't want a referendum but only want to realize their hegemonistic designs on the region, the whole world will be shown that they are fully responsible. For our part, we are deeply convinced of the unanimous support for his majesty the king in defending Morocco's territorial integrity, Boucetta concluded.

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON CANADIAN MINISTER'S VISIT

LD162334 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Excerpts] The Canadian minister of state for external affairs, Pierre Debane, left Morocco this afternoon at the end of his several days official visit. Following this official visit, a joint communique was issued:

At the invitation of M'hamed Boucetta, minister of state for foreign affairs, His Excellency Pierre Debane, Canadian minister of state for external affairs, paid an official visit to Morocco between 11 and 16 February at the head of a delegation comprising senior officials of the External Affairs, Agriculture and Health Ministries and of representatives of Canadian industrial and economic establishments.

During his stay in Morocco, the minister was received by His Majesty King Hassan II. He also met the minister of state in charge of cooperation, Mahjoubi Aherdan; the minister of finance, Abdellatif Jouahri; the minister of commerce, industry and tourism, Azzedine Guessous; the minister of transportation, Mansouri Benali; and the minister of energy, Moussa Saadi. He also met Dey Ould Sidi Baba, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies.

Pierre Debane and Abdelhaz Tazi, secretary of state for foreign affairs, chaired the opening meeting of the joint Moroccan-Canadian committee. The agreement for the founding of this committee was signed in Ottawa in 1981. The discussions between the two ministers concentrated on bilateral and international issues. The two ministers noted the identity of views with regard to the possibility of promoting Canadian participation in development programs in Morocco. A constructive spirit in an atmosphere of mutual understanding that reflects the desire of the two sides to attain an active start for bilateral cooperation in all fields and for consolidating bilateral relations prevailed in the committee meetings.

The committee reviewed the possibilities of industrial and institutional cooperation. Particular attention was devoted to the participation of the Canadian Government in the efforts to finding suitable conditions for investments in Morocco and to finance important projects which attract the attention of Canadian industrial firms through the Canadian Agency for International Development.

The new trends for cooperation between the two countries in the coming years also were discussed. These basically concern industrial cooperation projects aimed at establishing joint Moroccan-Canadian institutions and the granting of loans at preferential interest rates. These will be used to consolidate the great development projects and also will revolve around a program for technical cooperation that will meet Morocco's priorities.

The two sides expressed particular interest in consolidating exchanges on the university level and in increasing cultural cooperation which will shortly witness a new momentum in training cadres.

The two ministers reviewed in depth the international political problems and concentrated on the Middle East. They discussed possibilities of peace in the region and affirmed their adherence to a comprehensive settlement based on justice and equality. In this connection, the two sides considered no settlement to be possible without settling the Palestinian problem. The two sides raised the question of Jerusalem and the valuable role of His Majesty King Hassan II in his capacity as chairman of the Jerusalem committee and chiarman of the current session of the Arab summit conference.

The situation in Western Sahara was discussed in depth. The minister, Pierre Debane, voiced his support for the positive and courageous initiative of His Majesty King Hassan II in Nairobi at the OAU summit conference, as well as the OAU resolutions aimed at achieving a final settlement of the dispute.

The Moroccan side expressed appreciation to Pierre Elliott Trudeau for his effective role at the Cancun conference for the start of a North-South dialogue. Pierre Debane expressed his thanks to his majesty's government for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to him and his accompanying delegation. The next session of the joint committee will be held in Ottawa in 1983.

SUDAN

SUBCOMMITTEES FORMED TO DEVELOP SSU WORK

JN181158 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1018 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Feb (SUNA) -- The popular committee in charge of developing the Sudanese Socialist Union's [SSU] work concluded its general deliberations at yesterday's session under the chairmanship of President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, chairman of the SSU.

The following four subcommittees were formed from the popular committee: the ideological and information committee, the organizational affairs committee, the committee in charge of organizations and the committee in charge of organizing the various state departments. The members of the popular committee were distributed among the subcommittees.

TUNISIA

FRENCH PREMIER ARRIVES ON 2-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT

LD182128 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Excerpts] French Premier Pierre Mauroy arrived in Tunis this afternoon at the head of an important delegation on a 2-day official visit. He was welcomed at Tunis Carthage Airport by Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali, ambassadors of both countries and Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klebi.

The talks between the two sides are scheduled to begin at 1830 this evening at the prime minister's office. At 2000, Mzali will hold a banquet in honor of the French premier.

CABINET HEARS REPORT ON LABOR AGREEMENT

LD182314 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Excerpt] At its meeting this morning at the government house at the Qasbah under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali, the Cabinet heard a statement from the minister of social affairs on the results of the social negotiations which began 2 weeks ago between the government and various social groups.

The minister praised the spirit of understanding and responsibility that reigned over the negotiations. He lauded the political wisdom which led to the agreement that the various sides reached on ways to improve workers' and employees' purchasing power, ways to bolster the social groups while safeguarding the interests of the industrial establishment and ways to improve agriculture and the farmers' standard of living.

The prime minister informed the Cabinet of the president's approval of the agreement and explained the good effect the agreement will have on the national economy as a result of the social peace and harmony it will create among the various social groups. He strongly appealed to all work forces to place the country's higher interests above all other considerations and to ensure that a spirit of solidarity prevails among all factions and all citizens, thereby guaranteeing the triumph of the country's social and economic policies.

The Cabinet then reviewed the scope of Tunisian-French cooperation and the subjects to be discussed during the French premier's visit to Tunisia.

The foreign minister also spoke about his visit to Senegal and the good results the visit will have on bolstering contacts between the two countries.

ETHIOPIA

MINISTRY SPOKESMAN DENOUNCES U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

EA182304 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman said today that the United States is raising an unjustified hullaballoo over the correct steps taken by countries which do not bow to its aims and pressures. The spokesman said countries not following the imperialist path of development are labeled by the United States as terrorists and added that, as is known by the whole world, the truth is that the United States itself is terrorist.

The spokesman said that, as the peace-loving countries in the world clearly know, its capacity to create instability and new problems has increased and intensified while its increased isolation and criminal acts are chasing it from one part of the world to the other. The spokesman that the proof of this is the steps it took to distort the just aims and spirit of the friendship and cooperation treaty recently signed between the PDRY, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and socialist Ethiopia.

The spokesman said a recent statement by an official of the current U.S. administration that the above-mentioned countries are a threat to the Persian Gulf region is an absolutely unfounded lie, adding that this attempted distortion is aimed at disguising the U.S. objective of placing the natural resources of these countries under its control and exploiting them.

The spokesman said, in its recent history of intervention, the United States has switched from Indochinese to Caribbean countries, interfered in their internal affairs and continued with its ruthless (?acts of massacre) and destabilizing [words indistinct]. He added the peoples of Vietnam, Kampuchea, Ethiopia, Angola, Mozambique, Palestine, Cuba, Chile, El Salvador, as well as the heroic peoples of southern Africa, who are presently struggling for their independence and human dignity, taught an unforgettable lesson to the U.S. interventionist, oppressive and liquidationist policy by resisting it. The spokesman added that the countries which object and reject U.S. pressure are the targets of widespread hostile propaganda.

The spokesman said the worldwide activities of the U.S.-led international imperialism, on land and sea, are based on its futile desire to place the world under its control. He added that its futile (?activities) to counter the progress of peace-loving countries are based on the same dream. The spokesman said since the U.S. desperate acts of establishing military bases and stationing forces everywhere are derived from its own plots and [word indistinct] policy, it cannot blame others for these acts.

The spokesman went on to say that the U.S. administration is constantly (?amassing) aggressive forces and ultramodern weapons all over the world so as to perpetuate the regimes of oppressive classes and to stifle liberation movements struggling for justice and equality. He said the Reagan administration's (?policy) shows that the provocative plots hatched by the United States in constant collaboration with reactionary and conservative ruling classes are [words indistinct].

The spokesman said the U.S. pressure on peace and [words indistinct] in every region is aimed at bringing suffering to mankind and at amassing wealth through wars and conflicts.

The spokesman said the intensive U.S. preparations for war and the huge military budget it allocated for 1983 in this respect clearly explain the present U.S. administration's futile attempt to mislead world opinion.

The spokesman said in his statement that the Reagan administration's abundant support for ruthless ruling classes all over the world, support which is contrary to people's aspirations, is unacceptable and it shows [words indistinct]. The spokesman said the Reagan administration should have learned from history that no individual or dictatorial rule has ever emerged victorious by opposing the aspirations of the broad masses and added the struggle of the countries considered dangerous by U.S. imperialism is a just struggle being waged for peace, independence and cooperation.

The spokesman said the peace-loving countries of Africa and the peoples in the Persian Gulf know precisely that the threat to their security does not come from Ethiopia, Libya and the PDRY, adding that the threat comes from the Reagan administration, which, distrusting the peoples of [word indistinct], concluded a [word indistinct] (?strategic consensus) agreement.

The spokesman said its collaboration with the apartheid Pretoria regime, which is rejected by mankind, and particularly its planned campaign against the peoples of Africa, is further proof. He said mankind has learned many lessons from the past two destructive imperialists wars.

The spokesman said although imperialists and their collaborators are committing these and other similar acts, revolutionary Ethiopia will maintain its position in which it stands alongside the peace-loving and progressive forces opposed to the U.S. efforts to provoke war.

COPWE OFFICIAL EXPLAINS OFFENSIVE IN ERITREA

PM161625 Paris L'HUMANITE in French 10 Feb 82 p 7

[Text] During a press conference on Tuesday in Paris, Girma Neway, member of the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia, confirmed Addis Ababa authorities had decided to launch a broad offensive in Eritrea where armed clashes have been continuing for over 20 years.

After asserting that most of Eritrea has been liberated, Girma Neway stressed that the military operations are necessary to deal with the "scattered gangs which continue to infiltrate."

This offensive, according to the Ethiopian representatives, is not only military in nature. Dubbed "red star," it has just now been launched under the personal direction of Mengistu Haile Mariam. It also includes an extensive political and economic program to reorganize life in that region. "However," Girma Neway said, "there will be no leniency shown to those who have refused our peace offers." "We are determined to crush these traitors and it is essential that their last bastions be destroyed," he added.

ERITREAN OFFICIAL ON LATEST MENGISTU INITIATIVE

GF151055 Doha QNA in Arabic 0846 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Text] Doha, 15 Feb (WAKH) -- An Eritrean official said Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam has taken measures in the past few days to transfer the headquarters of his ruling party from Addis Ababa to Asmara. The official said he will be using Asmara as a temporary capital from which he will launch the seventh military campaign against the Eritrean people in order to militarily liquidate the Eritrean cause. He added the Ethiopian leader is taking this action now that it has become clear to him that his aides are incapable of assuming the responsibility of confronting the Eritrean fighters.

In a statement to QNA, Mohammad Osman (Abu Bakar), representative of the Eritrean Liberation Front-Popular Liberation Forces [ELF-PLF], said he has received information from the front that Eritrean fighters destroyed in Asmara yesterday an Ethiopian Army depot containing chemical weapons and fatal nerve gas. He said the front has received confirmation that Ethiopian forces are using two types of internationally-prohibited fatal nerve gas, (taywan) and (suman), in their current seventh military campaign to exterminate the Eritrean people.

The Eritrean official said the Ethiopian leader recently summoned 150 traditional political figures and members of the Eritrean Parliament and proposed an administrative rule plan similar to the autonomy plan Israel currently is trying to impose in the West Bank. These notables told the Ethiopian president that they are unable to move within this framework because the fighters always rejected such a plan.

(Abu Bakar) reaffirmed the Eritrean revolution's rejection of any formula for administrative rule. He said the Eritrean revolution will agree to unconditional negotiations on measures to implement the Eritrean people's right to self-determination.

The Eritrean official called on Arab countries to support the recent call Osman Saleh Sabbe, ELF-PLF leader, made to the United Nations, the Human Rights Commission and the European Parliament to form a factfinding mission to investigate Ethiopia's use of chemical weapons and nerve gas in its current campaign against the Eritrean people and their revolution. He also called on Arab and Muslim countries to give more support to the Eritrean revolution in its confrontation with the seventh Ethiopian military campaign which aims to exterminate the Eritrean people and to militarily liquidate their cause.

FIKRE-SELASSIE MEETS WITH CHADIAN ENVOY

NC151923 Paris AFP in English 1900 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Excerpts] Addis Ababa, 15 Feb (AFP) -- Chadian Government Secretary-General Mahamat Nour Barka today met Ethiopia's ruling military council Secretary-General Fikre-Selassie Wodgeress for talks on the current situation in Chad.

Mr Nour Barka, who holds ministerial rank, brought a message from President Goukouni Oueddei for Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam.

At the end of last year, Ndjamena asked Ethiopia to contribute to the Organisation of African Unity peace-keeping force in Chad but it was not known whether Addis Ababa had ever formally replied. It was believed Mr Nour Barka would raise this issue as well as touch on Chad's rejection of the latest peace formula worked out for that troubled country by an OAU mini-summit in Nairobi last week.

During his meeting with Captain Fikre-Selassie Mr Nour Barka was accompanied by Chad's first ambassador to Ethiopia, Jean-Baptiste Loakole, who presented his credentials here at the weekend.

TANZANIA

HUNGARIAN PARTY DELEGATION ARRIVES IN ZANZIBAR

EA171858 Zanzibar Domestic Service in Swahili 1600 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Summary] Zanzibar -- A two-man MSZMP [Hungarian Socialist Workers Party] delegation arrived in Zanzibar for a 2-day visit. The delegation, which is on a 5-day visit to Tanzania, is led by the head of the Department of Economic Planning. It was received by CCM [Chama Cha Mapinduzi -- Revolutionary Party of Tanzania] deputy chief executive secretary, Allan Heri, and other party and government leaders. The delegation already has visited a number of development projects on the island.

CONGO

SAUDI PRINCE, DELEGATION ARRIVE FOR ECONOMIC TALKS

AB171332 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] A large Saudi delegation led by Prince (Mir ad-Din) Al Sa'ud arrived in our capital this morning for a 3-day visit to our country. It should be noted that Prince (Mir Ad-Din) Al Sa'ud is the brother of King Khalid of Saudi Arabia. The delegation accompanying the prince is composed of advisers to his highness, a financial controller, a management expert and a vice president of a financial group. The Saudi delegation will hold talks with the minister of finance, the minister of planning and the minister of cooperation before being received in audience tomorrow, Thursday, by the president of the Central Committee, Col Denis Sassou-Nguesso. A meeting with the Congolese Islamic Committee is also on the agenda of the prince's delegation. This is the first high-level Saudi delegation to visit the Congo.

Meets Sassou-Nguesso

AB181354 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Comrade Denis Sassou-Nguesso, chairman of the Central Committee of the Congolese Labor Party [PCT], this morning received in audience at his Mpila residence His Highness Prince (Mir ad-Din) Al Sa'ud. After the audience, the prince made the following statement to the press:

[Begin recording, in Arabic followed by French translation] I have just been received by the head of state. This visit is a commercial visit. We have come to see your projects and production units.

[Question] Can you tell us the topic of your dicussions with the head of state?

[Answer] We discussed commercial problems.

[Question] How do you think the cooperation ties you intend to establish between Saudi Arabia and our country can be put into concrete form?

[Answer] This is the responsibility of the Congolese and Saudi authorities. [end recording]

Following the audience, His Highness Prince (Mir ad-Din) Al Sa'ud met with Comrade Lekoundzou Itihi Ossetoumba, member of the Political Bureau and minister of finance, at a working session at the General Secretariat of the PCT Central Committee. The two men discussed cooperation between Congo and Saudi Arabia.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

COUNCIL CHAIRMAN MEETS WITH DPRK DELEGATION

AB181225 Malabo Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] The DPRK government delegation which was visiting our country returned today to Pyongyang, after holding talks with the Equatorial Guinean authorities. The DPRK delegation, which was headed by the vice prime minister for external affairs, was received in audience by the chairman of the Supreme Military Council, Col Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, with whom they discussed bilateral questions and the existing relations between the two countries.

BENIN

TOURE VISITS COTONOU, DISCUSSES SAHARA, CHAD

AB120840 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 11 Feb 82

[Excerpts] On his return from Nairobi where he took part in the OAU minisummit on Western Sahara and Chad, the supreme leader of the Guinean revolution, President Ahmed Sekou Toure, arrived in Cotonou this afternoon at the head of an important delegation.

[Begin recording] [Question] Among the burning issues now facing Africa, Western Sahara continues to dominate the scene. Comrade President, as a member of the OAU ad hoc committee charged with solving this issue, can you draw the main conclusions of the meeting just held in Nairobi to debate the issue?

[Answer] We can say technical issues preoccupied the implementation committee set up at the 18th OAU summit on Sahara. Two major topics formed the agenda: the setting out of modalities for a cease-fire and also the setting out of modalities for the holding of a referendum on self-determination. As you know, the OAU is resolved to engage itself on the path of a popular consultation, taking into consideration the Saharan people as the masters of their own destiny and freely exercising their rights to self-determination. The parties concerned all claim to have the support of the Saharan people. The question now is to allow the Saharan people to express themselves. It follows that after such consultations, a final solution will be found to the Western Sahara issue. The Nairobi summit has set into motion all necessary mechanisms for the organization of the cease-fire and the referendum. However, it was not able to fix dates for the cease-fire and the referendum. We left these decisions to the discretion of the current OAU chairman who will have to consult all parties concerned and, on behalf of the committee, choose convenient dates. All we can say is that resolutions on Sahara were unanimously accepted. That means that the OAU is engaged in the practical path leading to a final and just solution to the Saharan problem.

[Question] Comrade President, the current situation in Chad is also of concern to the African Continent. What is the Guinean revolution's position on this issue?

[Answer] The Guinean revolution knows the Chadian people have been facing this dramatic situation for more than 15 years now. There are 11 factions there and each one is fighting for political power and clashing. This has resulted in the loss of thousands of Chadian lives. Some important decisions have just been made. First, the OAU standing committee and the Chadian Government [words indistinct] cannot be questioned because it was set up by the Lagos Accord just as it created the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT]. If Goukouni says the standing committee is worthless, Africa therefore says GUNT ceases to be a government. Then people will resume their role of faction leaders. The committee is the expression of the desire of the supreme African body, the OAU.

The standing committee set 28 February 1982 as the date for the implementation of the cease-fire. From this date, nobody, no group of persons having respect for the OAU and the Chadian people, should shoot. So, for us, the cease-fire will become effective at midnight on 28 February 1982. On 15 March, we are planning a conference of reconciliation because the Chadian issue has wrongly been discussed. It is not a military problem. It is mainly a political problem. The struggle prevailing there today is a political one. It aims at achieving political power. That this why, on 15 March, in a city to be decided upon, all factions will meet with the standing committee of which your country is a member. The aim of this meeting is to achieve reconciliation among the factions which are still opposed to one another. No faction will be excluded from the talks. We believe that from the outcome of this political meeting, we can set up a committee charged with outlining a draft constitution.

During April, the Chadian people themselves will be charged with the preparation of a draft constitution. Then, in May and June, if this timetable is adhered to, we intend to go on with parliamentary and presidential elections. The standing committee therefore decided to maintain the African troops until 30 June with the hope that by that date the newly elected institutions will be in place. Those were the decisions made at our meeting. They are directly within the framework of the return of peace to Chad.

[Question] Comrade President, as you have demonstrated in your answer, the OAU is making great efforts to solve African problems. Our pan-African organization will be 20 years old next year. This will coincide with the 20th summit of the OAU, which will be held in your country. Comrade President, what are your hopes for the OAU?

[Answer] My legitimate hope is to see Africa strengthen its self-confidence. It should also strengthen its hope in its future and its determination to achieve its happiness. It should strive to be independent and responsible and to develop the immense resources of its soil, especially its human resources.

[Question] Comrade President, with your permission, one more question. The antirevolution has just launched a new attack on the Republic of Guinea. The Guinean press recently reported a new plot. Can you briefly tell us what it is all about?

[Answer] It is normal. A revolution is never alone. Because it wants to change certain things in the society, it is hated. If the world had only honest men, living by their sweat, accepting ties of equality, fraternity and solidarity, in a word, if there were no evil in this world -- there would have been no revolution. A revolution is like a remedy or a necessity and its objective is to save man from exploitation by his fellow man. As long as Guinea engages on the path of true and popular revolution, there will also be antirevolutionary activities. This is to tell you that what is happening in Guinea will happen in your country if it has not happened yet. I mention this simply so outsiders know that there are still antirevolutionary activities. I know very well the aims of the antirevolutionaries: They aim at destroying the people's regime. But we are convinced the victory of the Guinean people is also the victory of the revolution over counterrevolution. We have told our internal and external enemies that the grave of counterrevolution and imperialism is wide open in Guinea and that we will smash the enemies of our people mercilessly. [end recording]

GHANA

NUNOO-MENSAH WARNS POLICE, ARMY ON HARASSMENT

AB182050 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Members of the people's armed forces and people's police service have been told that the weapons given them should be used to protect the civilian population and not to molest them. They should therefore stop all acts of molestation and harassment.

This was declared by the chief of defense staff, Brig Nunoo-Mensah, when he addressed a special police seminar on the new changing role of the Ghana police service in the revolution in Accra today. The CDS, who is also a member of the Provisional National Defense Council, pointed out that the civilian population sees the revolution as a way to protect them from the exploitation of the past governments and if they do not see this realized they are not likely to give their full support to the revolution.

The CDS was treating the topic: The Armed Forces and the Police in the Revolution. He explained that both the police and the military play the same role of protecting the nation but because of the different orientations in their training, some enmity has been created. He called for cooperation between them so that they can work efficiently in the cause of the revolution. He suggested frequent get-togethers to erase the bitterness between them. In his view, unless the whole service structures of the police service and the military are overhauled, the bitterness between the two sides will remain. He urged them to investigate any information that gets to them before they take action as most of the molestations stem from the wrong information. Brigadier Nunoo-Mensah called on the officers of the two bodies also to investigate acts of indiscipline amongst their members before taking any action.

The lecture was chaired by another member of the PNDC, Mr J.A. Kwei. In his contribution, he called on both police and military personnel to disabuse their minds that one group is superior to the other and develop cordial relations to further the cause of the revolution.

Addressing the participants earlier, the inspector general of police [IGP], Mr Kugblenu, said the police has come a long way from the days when it was regarded as a brutal arm of the colonial power established to subjugate the rising expectations of the colonized people against the imperial system. However, there is much to be done to make the operations and practices of the police less menacing to the ordinary man. The IGP announced that a new department, to be known as the Business Crimes Bureau, is to be set up to help deal with social evils in the society.

A member of the PNDC, the Rev Dr Damuah, who gave the first lecture on the aims and objectives of the revolution, observed that the present state of the country's economy has been brought about by misdirection, lack of sense of priority and lack of good leadership. He suggested the restructuring of the whole economic system. The Rev Dr Damuah advised the officers to give the best examples as officers of righteousness. They should also use their creativity to help build the nation. He called for [words indistinct] to create political, social, economic and psychological awareness among the youth. Emphasis should, however, be on patriotism.

DAILY GRAPHIC 'Concern'

AB171151 ACCRA Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Press review]

[Excerpt] THE DAILY GRAPHIC expresses concern over reports of molestation, harassment and intimidation of the already oppressed people by some armed personnel in some villages, towns and cities. According to the reports, people's houses have been searched without warrants and arrests have been made without authority. There have also been beating and manhandling of civilians and shootings of innocent people. Threats and intimidations have put fear in rural and exploited people who, otherwise, would want to be liberated.

The paper feels very disappointed since the Provisional National Defense Council has already set in motion, the appropriate machinery for dealing with people who have sabotaged the economy in one way or the other. The GRAPHIC says those who are involved in these acts are not assisting the people's revolution. Even though the paper concedes that this may be due to overenthusiasm or impulse, it calls on the true people's armed personnel to consider this war against oppression as a real one. Ghanaians, it says, will definitely not want one kind of oppression to be replaced by another. The revolution, says the GRAPHIC, has to succeed and it is the responsibility of all true revolutionaries to make it succeed.

IVORY COAST

IRANIAN DELEGATION TO EXPLAIN ISLAMIC REVOLUTION

AB181131 Paris AFP in French 1044 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Abidjan, 18 Feb (AFP) -- A nine-member official Iranian delegation led by Hojjat ol-Eslam Movahhedi, a member of the Majlis, arrived in the Ivorian capital on Sunday after visits to Zaire and Gabon, according to diplomatic sources in Abidjan.

This visit is aimed at "explaining to the Ivorian Government the true meaning of the Islamic revolution as well as the general direction of Iran's foreign policy toward countries of the Third World."

The Iranian delegation has been received by one of the vice presidents of the Ivorian National Assembly and has met Muslim dignitaries in the capital, with whom it discussed financial assistance toward the construction of mosques.

LIBERIA

PODIER CALLS OFFICIAL'S RESIGNATION 'DEFECTION'

AB182145 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1900 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] The director of the People's Redemption Council, PRC, Press and Public Affairs Bureau, Captain D. Karn Carlor, has resigned. The DAILY OBSERVER newspaper reported today that Mr. Carlor, who is presently in the United States, wrote a letter of resignation dated 11 January this year to the vice head of state, Maj Gen Nicholas Podier, and mailed a certified copy to the paper for publication. However, the vice head of state, reacting to Captain Carlor's resignation described it as defection, the paper added.

General Podier explained that Captain Karn Carlor had asked for a month's leave to travel to the United States which was granted by the PRC but he failed to resume duty after the leave expired. The paper also quoted General Podier as saying that while Captain Carlor was still in the United States, he wrote to the PRC asking for a study leave which was rejected because the council thought he should have returned home before making the request.

Last year, Captain Carlor was transferred in a reshuffle from the post of general coordinator of the PRC to the position of director of the PRC Press and Public Affairs Bureau.

MALI

MALI-LIBYA EXTERNAL TRADE BANK ESTABLISHED

AB190833 Bamako Domestic Service in French 2015 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] The Malian-Libyan Arab Bank for External Trade is born: The birth certificate issued by its constituent assembly which met at the finance building enabled its first board of governors to outline the major steps to be taken so that the financial institution will become operational within the next 3 months. The discussions of the constituent assembly were presided over by Driss. Keita, minister for finance and commerce, who was assisted by His Excellency El [illegible]kaye Kounta, Malian ambassador to Libya; Mamadu Haidalla, technical adviser at the presidency of the republic; and Alfa Toure, technical adviser at the Ministry of Finance and Commerce. The Libyan delegation was led by 'Abd al-Kader (Bajeyi), director of operations of the Libyan Bank for External Trade.

The bank's capital has been fixed at 500 million Malian francs. Libya will supply 51 percent of the capital and Mali will provide the remaining 49 percent. The bank's headquarters will be in Bamako.

NIGERIA

ATTEMPT TO INCITE TROOPS TO MUTINY REPORTED

AB190807 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] The Federal Government has commented on the attempt by a businessman, Alhaji Jaria Bukar Umoru Mandara, to incite soldiers to mutiny. A statement by the executive office of the president said early this month Alhaji Bukar Mandara, in collaboration with some officers and soldiers, attempted to commit a felony. The statement pointed out that there was no truth whatsoever in the rumors that the officers involved in the abortive attempt have been secretly tried and sentenced to various terms. It explains that the businessman has since been taken to court and is at present in custody.

AFP Report

AB191142 Paris AFP in English 1116 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] Lagos, 19 Feb (AFP) -- Nigerian authorities have arrested a civilian and several army men on charges of inciting mutiny, it was announced here today.

A statement from the president's office said that "on Saturday, February 6, security agents arrested Alhaji Mandara, a businessman, on a charge of conspiring to commit a felony by incitement of soldiers to commit a mutinous act." The statement, issued during the night, gave no other details except "an officer (?and army) soldiers have also been arrested for the same offense and are being interrogated."

Alhaji Mandara had been charged in court and was remanded in custody.

The statement was a response to "rumors circulating in certain quarters that some officers and soldiers arrested for a felony have been secretly tried and sentenced to various terms."

All today's newspapers carried the story of the "coup" and its failure, reporting details which Nigerian officials contacted by AFP declined to comment on.

The NATIONAL CONCORD, which is close to the ruling National Party, under the headline "Coup Bid," said the businessman had handed out large sums of money to a major and several soldiers to overthrow the civilian government and bring back military rule. (An elected civilian government returned to power in October 1979, after the Nigerian Army marched back to barracks following 13 years of military rule.)

The government-owned NEW NIGERIAN, under the heading "NSO (Nigerian Security Organization) Foils Coup d'Etat Plan," said the businessman used to get big contracts under the previous military government but was not obtaining any from the civilians.

According to the NEW NIGERIAN there is no evidence of any disenchantment or ideological deviation by the members of the armed forces, and only the businessman's corruption had made it possible to get some support.

The daily TIMES, which is close to the government, published a similar version with the title "Coup Plan Uncovered."

The independent daily PUNCH reported "Planners Arrested, Businessman Masterminds Plot Against Govt," while the opposition daily SKETCH quoted the official statement.

SENEGAL

JOINT COMMISSION TALKS WITH TUNISIA END

AB171038 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] The third session of the Senegalese-Tunisian joint commission ended this afternoon at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. At the end of the meeting which was presided over by the foreign ministers of the two countries -- Moustapha Niasse and Caid es-Sebsi -- a final communique was issued and which we published during our 2000 newscast.

The two countries reaffirmed their desire to enlarge their cooperation in all fields. This is why this joint commission will be reorganized into a great joint commission which will meet in Tunis next month.

In his speech, Caid es-Sebsi thanked our foreign minister for inviting him to undertake this visit which enabled him to note their identity of views on all the problems discussed. This visit also enabled the Tunisian minister to meet with President Abdou Diouf and Prime Minister Habib Thiam with whom he examined a number of problems. In his speech, the Tunisian foreign minister also took stock of the various fields of cooperation between our two countries.

[Begin recording] We have done a good job and achieved positive results. What does this mean? First of all, we determined the position of our cooperation and assessed its effects over many years. We all agreed that we have made no mistake. This meeting also offered our two delegations the opportunity to make -- with the encouragement of our two presidents -- an inventory of the prospects of development of our relations and I am very happy to note that we have made a complete inventory which enabled us to discover unsuspected fields of cooperation. I am personally very optimistic about the future of our cooperation. [end recording]

ANGOLA

SADCC ENERGY MINISTERS APPROVE REPORTS

AB171850 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 1622 GMT 17 Feb 82

[Text] Luanda, 17 Feb (ANGOP) -- The ministers of energy of member countries of the Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) have adopted the reports of the Energy Committee for Southern Africa.

The ministers, who have been meeting since Tuesday morning, approved the documents "towards an energy policy for southern Africa," and "general outlines of the energy situation in southern Africa."

The officials studied the "questionnaire," the instrument for gathering information on the energy situation in the region, information which will make possible the formulation of an adequate policy.

The ministers recommended that any initiative to be carried out in the field of energy by any member country should be communicated to the People's Republic of Angola, as the coordinating country, so that it can inform all the states that may benefit from the initiative.

Finally, they recognized the need to establish a regional energy newsletter which will be used to link member states.

The ministers will visit the Cabinda refinery Wednesday and will resume their deliberations on Thursday.

ANGOP HAILS CLOSE TIES WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES

AB161522 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 2030 GMT 15 Feb 82

[ANGOP commentary: "A Realistic Policy"]

[Text] Luanda, 15 Feb (ANGOP) -- Since the inception of the People's Republic of Angola, the application of the policy of national independence and nonalignment defined in the comprehensive program of the MPLA has constituted the general principle on which all diplomatic actions of the sovereign state of Angola have been based.

The adoption of this realistic policy, which recommends establishing diplomatic relations with all countries of the world, regardless of their political and social system, on the basis of universally accepted principles, does not contradict another policy which recommends establishing preferential relations with the socialist countries. Angola, which has emerged from the most violent waves of an imperialist war, has made clear to the world in no uncertain terms that it has opted for socialism based on Marxist-Leninist principles, the political doctrine adopted in 1977 at the First MPLA Congress as a guideline for the radical transformation of the social relations inherited from the anachronistic imperialist system of exploitation of man by man with the establishment of the vanguard party of the Angolan working and peasant classes.

Nevertheless, the accomplishment of the general objectives of the revolution implies the objective need to strengthen in particular the preferential relations with the parties and states of the socialist community and the international workers movement through the consolidation of the world socialist and communist development system.

Today, the bitterest enemies of the People's Republic of Angola, its people and its scientific socialism know that the staggering progress registered in the national reconstruction of the People's Republic of Angola and in the establishment of the technical and physical bases for building scientific socialism were made possible thanks to the assistance and special attention given by the socialist countries to the Angolan workers. The first 5 years since the friendship and cooperation treaty was signed in Moscow between the People's Republic of Angola and the USSR, as well as the various conventions and agreements on cooperation signed with other socialist states, attest to the major revolutionary achievements of these preferential relations with our natural allies.

It is a fact in this context that the first extraordinary congress of the MPLA-Labor Party objectively pointed to strengthening cooperation between Angola and the socialist community as an imperative need to ensure the victory of the Angolan revolution. The tour last October by Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, of various socialist countries of Europe and Asia, and the signing of new friendship treaties with Hungary and Czechoslovakia, the DPRK and Libya constitute the most evident expression of the major historical significance of the harmonious development of mutually beneficial cooperation between the People's Republic of Angola and its natural allies. The great importance of this cooperation to the Angolan revolution was recently highlighted in the joint Angolan-Soviet communique signed in Moscow which stressed the paramount significance of the internationalist aid and support from the USSR, and other socialist countries to safeguard the revolutionary achievements of the People's Republic of Angola and the increasingly rapid construction of the national economy.

It is therefore more than obvious that the establishment of preferential relations with the natural allies of Angola corresponds with the most sacred desires of the Angolan people, who consider these multifaceted relations as a fundamental condition for the victory of scientific socialism in our country.

COOPERATION DISCUSSIONS WITH EEC SOUGHT

AB151249 Luanda Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Text] Angola is prepared to increase discussions on cooperation with the EEC, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, the chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the republic, affirmed during his audience with the EEC delegation which recently visited Angola. This cooperation is desired because there are prospects particularly in the fishery, transportation, communications and social fields, specified the president. The Angolan head of state added that other possibilities may emerge considering the development of Angola's econonomic situation and the situation prevailing in the region.

President Jose Eduardo dos Santos indicated that the conference on the coordination of the groupings in southern Africa could devise ways to establish bilateral cooperation while taking into account the potentialities as well as Angola's privileged geographical situation in southern Africa. Detailed discussions of this cooperation should be continued because Angola, by principle, did not subscribe to the Lome convention. Nevertheless, it is possible to develop other forms of cooperation between Angola and the EEC, stressed the Angolan head of state.

The EEC delegation, which was led by the commissioner for development, Mr Edgard Pisani, left Angola yesterday at the end of a 4-day visit.

MINISTER STRESSES NEED TO STEP UP OIL PRODUCTION

EA161630 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0900 GMT 15 Feb 82

[Excerpt] The need to increase oil production to accrue the best possible benefits was emphasized in Cabinda the day before yesterday by the minister of energy, Comrade Pedro van Dunen Loi, during a tour of the installations and the operative area [words indistinct] of Cabinda Gulf Oil.

Referring to oil in its international context, the minister of energy said that production is a complex matter because of the decrease in prices brought about by the policy of the U.S. administration and the adoption of new sources of energy by developed countries which had complicated the economic and financial situation of developing countries.

GOVERNMENT CONFISCATES ABANDONED ESTATES

AB171227 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 1820 GMT 16 Feb 82

[Text] Luanda, 16 Feb (ANGOP) -- A series of joint dispatches issued by the State Secretariat for Housing and the Ministry of Justice, published in the daily of the republic, announce the confiscation of more than 100 estates in the provinces of Cabinda, Uige, Kwanza-North and Huila because they have been abandoned by their owners.

According to these dispatches, 32 estates are being confiscated in Cabinda, 18 in Uige, 70 in Kwanza-North and 2 in the Province of Huila.

The confiscated estates will revert to the state without any taxes or charges.

MILLET HARVEST SEASON BEGINS; INCREASE EXPECTED

AB151138 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 0948 GMT 14 Feb 82

[Text] Malanje, 14 Feb (AFP) -- The season for the harvest of millet began Friday in Malanje with the symbolic ceremony at the Lau Agricultural Corporation which owns 1,100 hectares of millet.

This season, which goes up to the end of March, will require an intensive mobilization of the province's inhabitants, especially since there is an anticipated increase of 50 percent over previous years, Roberto Silva, director of the Lau Corporation told ANGOP.

Roberto Silva added that besides millet, the corporation also grows potatoes and soya since the production of sunflowers is at a standstill due to lack of seeds.

According to the director, the Lau Agricultural Corporation, which has 287 workers distributed over three production units, will become a large agro-cattlerearing corporation capable of meeting the food shortages.

NAMIBIA

SCHOOL CHILDREN IN NORTH KIDNAPPED BY SWAPO

AB181010 Paris AFP in English 0940 GMT 18 Feb 82

[Text] Windhoek, 18 Feb (AFP) -- Guerrillas of the South-West Africa Peoples' Organization (SWAPO) kidnapped 40 schoolchildren, the headmaster and a teacher in northern Namibia last week, it was learned here today.

Ovamboland Administrative Secretary Frans Viljoen said today that it was thought the 42 victims had already been taken north across the border into Angola. He said the kidnapping took place on Thursday last week but the authorities only learned about it last night.

SWAPO RADIO REVIEWS 1981 MILITARY OPERATIONS

EA141516 Addis Ababa Voice of Namibia in English 1900 GMT 13 Feb 82

[SWAPO program]

[Excerpt] This week the defense HQ of SWAPO issued a complete war communique covering the military actions of PLAN [People's Liberation Army of Namibia] forces against the terrorist army of South Africa during the course of the year 1981.

During the period under review, PLAN forces carried out 1,200 successful combat actions against the racist occupationist army of South Africa, and the results of these battles are as follows:

Throughout the year 1981 SWAPO forces killed 952 racist South African soldiers and captured two as war prisoners. During the same year again our valiant fighters shot down 21 enemy combat planes and 19 helicopters. They destroyed 257 combat vehicles of the enemy and 72 general transport vehicles were also destroyed. Fifteen combat motorcycles were destroyed and others were captured and are now being used by PLAN forces in liberated areas. Twelve vehicles of different makes were also captured and are now at the service of our forces in the war zone.

They also seized 15 horses used by the racist troops in the war zones and [these] are now at the disposal of our gallant fighters.

This is the price the arrogant,intransigent and belligerent racist Pretoria regime paid during the course of the year 1981 on the military front, because of her stupidity of refusing to sign a cease-fire accord with SWAPO in January last year.

It is also of paramount importance to state here and now that all these casualties inflicted on the racist military set-up in our country took place while the racist (?warlords) in Pretoria were boasting to the world that they have destroyed the backbone of SWAPO and the movement is no longer in a position of carrying out the armed liberation struggle. This, of course, was the wishful thinking of the Boers aimed at boosting the down-trodden morale of the Boer soldiers and the racist minority settlers in Namibia and South Africa itself.

The point here is that there is no way racist South Africa and her Western godfathers can destroy SWAPO. During the past 16 years of our armed liberation struggle SWAPO has proven to the entire world that it is a force to reckon with. And even the racist war-mongers in Pretoria are quite aware of this fact. After the regime was (?militarily) annihilated by PLAN forces in Namibia it jumped up like a wounded buffalo and invaded the People's Republic of Angola.

ZIMBABWE

ZAPU OFFICIALS COMMENT ON GOVERNMENT MEMBERSHIP

CA190916 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 19 Feb 82

[Text] The ZAPU secretary general, Senator Joseph Msika, says the two ZAPU cabinet ministers and two deputy ministers still in the government are free to decide whether to leave or stay. The senator told ZIANA last night that although they had been nominated to the cabinet by ZAPU, the party will not impose any decisions on any of the remaining ministers and deputy ministers. The ZAPU president and former minister without portfolio, Mr Joshua Nkomo, has however pointed out that ZAPU, which went into the government as a party, shall leave as a party.